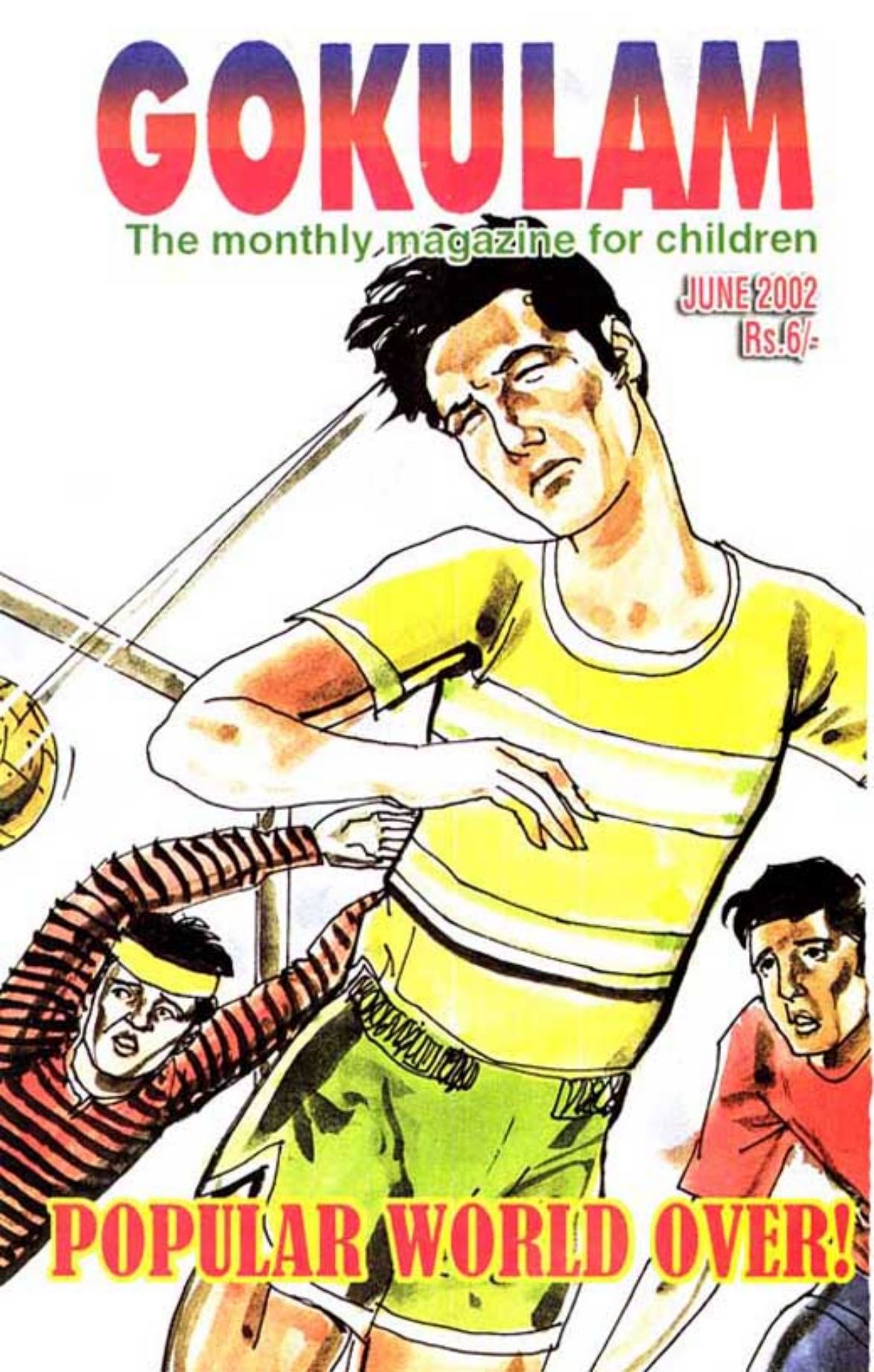
GOKULAM

The monthly magazine for children

JUNE 2002

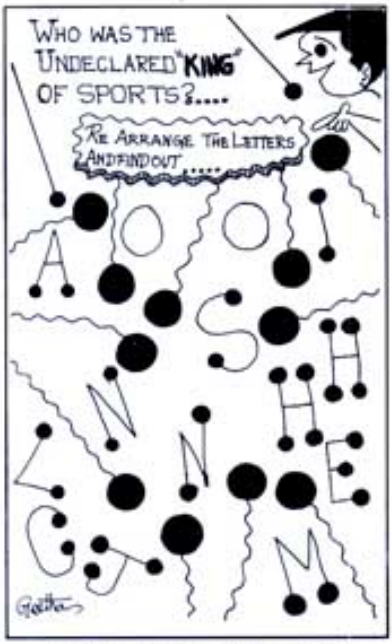
Rs. 6/-



POPULAR WORLD OVER!

SPOT FIVE DIFFERENCES

Ans : 1.Pattern on the umbrella 2. Hat on elephant's head 3. Elephant's ear 4. Shoe lace 5. Design on the mouse's dress.



Ans. : Michael Johnson

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE PICTURE?

Ans : The policeman is carrying a walking stick!

Customer : Please give me an egg.

Shopkeeper : We sell only by the dozen.

Customer : One twelfth of a dozen please!

- V.Vivek, Std. VIII, Sainik School, Coimbatore.

IN GOKULAM THIS MONTH

JUNE 2002

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SPECIAL FEATURES

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GOKULAM

Vol. XIV, No.12

E-mail : kalkiweekly@vsnl.com

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children. — William Canton

GRANDMA WORM

Dear Grandma,

I had fear of ghosts but not too much. The other day I saw a TV programme which showed a real ghost. From that day onwards I am terrified of ghosts and at night I am afraid to go even from one room to another. What shall I do?

- K. Abdul Ghani Abbas, Theni.

Dear Abdul,

First of all you should not see TV programmes intended for adults. Adults have the capacity to differentiate between fact and fiction. They see scary films just for the kick of it and do not believe them. But children are impressionable. So choose good programmes for viewing. Secondly, rest assured that ghost stories are just imaginations and have no scientific basis.

TERRIFIED OF GHOSTS!

The psychological impact that horror comics like Dracula and ghost stories have on children is great. Avoid them. Always carry a torch light with you at night and whenever you fear a ghost, switch it on and you will find that the ghost has vanished!

* * *

I am twelve years old and I have done a lot of water colour and oil paintings. I have received a number of certificates. But what am I to do with my paintings?

If they don't have any value should I continue to paint? My father is giving away my paintings to friends and relatives who cherish them. What should I do?

- Oisik Adak, Trichy

Dear Oisik,

Any art should be practised mainly for the satisfaction of the mind and soul. Not for monetary benefit alone. You should also concentrate on your studies to get a decent job for future livelihood. If at a later date you are recognised as a good artist, you will become famous and money too will start flowing in, by sale of your paintings. But that is not a certainty. What is true and sure is the mental satisfaction which painting as a hobby gives you. So if you are really interested in painting don't give it up. If you do, you'll feel sorry later on.

***

On the days I have exams I study till 10 pm and I get up at 5 am. But still I get

less marks than my sister who studies only till 9 pm. Why?

- Aparna Ramakrishnan, Cochin

Dear Aparna,

How you read for exams is more important than how long you read. The best way to prepare for an exam is to read throughout the year and not just before the exams. Secondly you should concentrate and understand what you read and not just mug up. Thirdly the best way to score more marks is to get the question papers of previous years and work on the answers. Writing the answers is better than just reading for, you will be able to concentrate better and understand the subject.

***

My mom always scolds and beats me for silly things like not keeping my books in order. Dad is upset when he sees me crying. What am I to do?

- Monica, Ahmedabad

Dear Monica,

"A place for everything and everything in it's place" is a maxim which if practised goes a long way in disciplining you. You should thank your mom for being a disciplinarian. It will help you throughout your life and will build a healthy and prosperous future for you. Instead of crying after she scolds you, try not to upset her in the first place. When she scolds you, her blood pressure increases and that is not good for her. You should try to please her and make her smile by your proper behaviour. Your father too will feel happy and the whole atmosphere in the family will change dramatically for the better.

***

I like pets and I very much want a puppy as a pet. But my parents refuse. They say maintaining a dog is difficult. All my friends have pets. Please help me!

- S. Harikesh, Bangalore

Dear Hari,

If your parents refuse your reasonable request there must be some valid reason. So ask them politely once again. If they still say 'no', ask them if you can have some other pet like say, a kitten or parrot. They are not difficult to maintain. If they still refuse, I am afraid you will have to be satisfied with playing with one of your friend's pet and think of it as your own!

Love,
Grandma worm

GOKULAM TURNS 15

5 new features all set to begin!

Your favourite magazine will wear a new look from July 2002!

CARTOONS MADE EASY

Lalitha aunty who gave you an 'insight' into drawing and painting (May 2002 issue) teaches you to draw cartoons. Have fun!

FASCINATING FLORA

- taking you on an intriguing journey through the kingdom of plants.

COUNTRIES AND THEIR CHILDREN

- a twelve part coverage on the livelihood of people from different lands!

THE PARENT PAGE

Welcoming contributions from parents of our young readers!

* Remember its all for children! * Do quote your child's name and subscription number.

* See para 1 on page 24 of this issue for other rules.

Two Pages all for you - write right now!

THE STRANGE CREATURES

- a colourful and exciting picture story serial!

Story : **Aparna Vishwanathan**

Illustration **Jayaraj**

THE STORY OF DILIPAN

Dilipan was an able and just ruler. His kingdom flourished and people were happy and contended. However, Dilipan and his queen Sudakshina were sad. They longed to have a child. They decided to visit their guru, sage Vasishta.

Dilipan and Sudakshina entrusted their duties to the ministers and left for the Ashram of their guru, which was situated in a deep forest outside the city.

It was evening when they reached the Ashram of sage Vasishta, who lived with his wife Arundhati.

"Oh revered sage! You know it all. We desire a prince. We have come to you to seek your advice and receive your blessings" said Dilipan as he prostrated before his guru. Sudakshina too offered her humble prayers.

Vasishta was silent for a while. He seemed lost in deep thought and meditation. On opening his eyes he spoke to Dilipan and explained why the king and queen were deprived of a child.

"Once, when you were returning to earth after helping Indra in Devaloka, you passed Kamadhenu the heavenly cow. She was standing under the shade of a tree. Although you saw her, you failed to worship her. Driven by anger, she cursed that you would not have any children..."

Dilipan and Sudakshina were extremely upset to hear this. The king pleaded with his guru:

"Sir! Where is Kamadhenu now? We shall go right away and ask her to forgive us. Kindly tell us where she is. You are the only one who can guide us well."

Sage Vasishta came up with a solution. "Kamadhenu is now in the nether world. It is not possible for you to go there now. Nandini, her daughter is here with me in this Ashram. She is very dear to me. You can take good care of her and worship her everyday until such time she is pleased with you. She will then grant you the boon you ask of her. But be sure to fulfil your

duties well" he said.

Dilipan and Sudakshina lived in the ashram in a small hut and slept on a bed of hay. They woke up early every morning in time to perform the puja to Nandini. Nandini had a calf. After the calf was fed, Nandini would go into the green pastures to graze. Dilipan escorted her with a great sense of responsibility and reverence. He walked along with her to the river, gave her a bath rubbing her body gently. While she grazed, Dilipan stood guard armed with his bow and arrow, ready to protect and guard Nandini from the attack of any wild animal or other dangers. While she rested during noon under the shade of a tree, Dilipan sat next to her, gently fanning, to prevent the insects of the forest from disturbing her sleep. Morning to evening the king was always with Nandini and never left her side.

Dilipan came back to his senses when he heard the roar of a lion followed by Nandini's cry. He ran in the direction of the sound and saw the most terrible sight.

When Dilipan and Nandini came back in the evening, Sudakshina welcomed them right at the edge of the forest and brought them home. She worshipped Nandini once again in the evening and fed her and her calf well. The king and queen slept only after Nandini slept.

Twenty one days passed like this. One day, Nandini went deep into the forest-deeper than usual. She traversed the forest and neared the mountain side. The place was beautiful. The mountain peaks glittered in sun light. The clear waters of the stream gurgled. The meadow was green like emerald. The trees stood majestically tall, lush and grand. Dilipan was wonderstruck. He stood stunned, looking around, gazing in wonder. "What a heavenly place" he thought to himself. In the few minutes that Dilipan was distracted, Nandini wandered away.

Dilipan came back to his senses when he heard the roar of a lion followed by Nandini's cry. He ran in the direction of the sound and saw the most terrible sight. He was shocked to see a lion trying to pull down Nandini. Nandini was struggling to be released. Dilipan took aim but could not shoot. His hands had lost their strength.

The lion spoke! "You can't kill me I am the servant of Lord Shiva and I stand here guarding and protecting this tree Devadaru which was grown by goddess Parvathi. This cow has trespassed into my territory. Moreover she is my natural food. You cannot prevent me from eating her."

Dilipan remained thoughtful for a few seconds, before he spoke: "You are the king of the forest. You must be just. This cow belongs to my guru and is under my care and protection. Nandini's calf is young and will await her mother's arrival. I cannot stand

by and watch her being killed. I too have trespassed into your territory. Let Nandini go and you can kill me instead." So saying, Dilipan dropped his bow and arrow and walked up to the lion.

"Stop!" said the lion. "You are a king. You must protect your people and rule your kingdom. You cannot fail in that duty. Moreover, you must be having thousands of cows to offer to your guru. You cannot give up your life for the sake of an animal."

Dilipan continued to plead. "What is the use of living if I cannot do my duty to my guru and to an animal in my protection? This is no ordinary cow. She is the daughter of Kamadhenu herself. Just as it is your duty to protect this tree, is it not my duty to protect Nandini? Now let us not talk any further. Just kill me and let Nandini go."

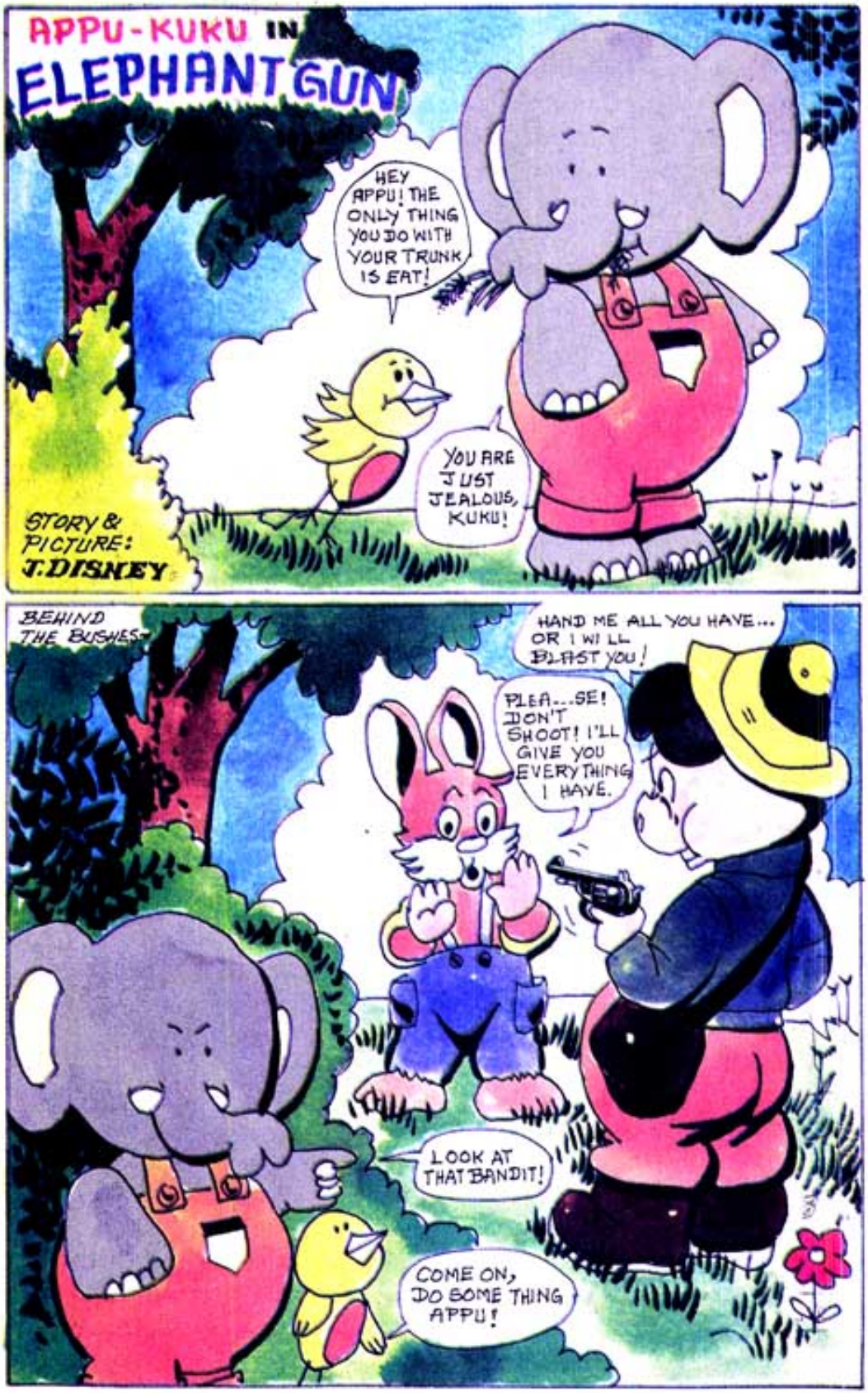
The lion agreed. Dilipan went closer to the lion and knelt down. Suddenly the lion disappeared and flowers dropped from the tree to bless the king. When Dilipan raised his head, he saw Nandini in front of him. He prostrated before her.

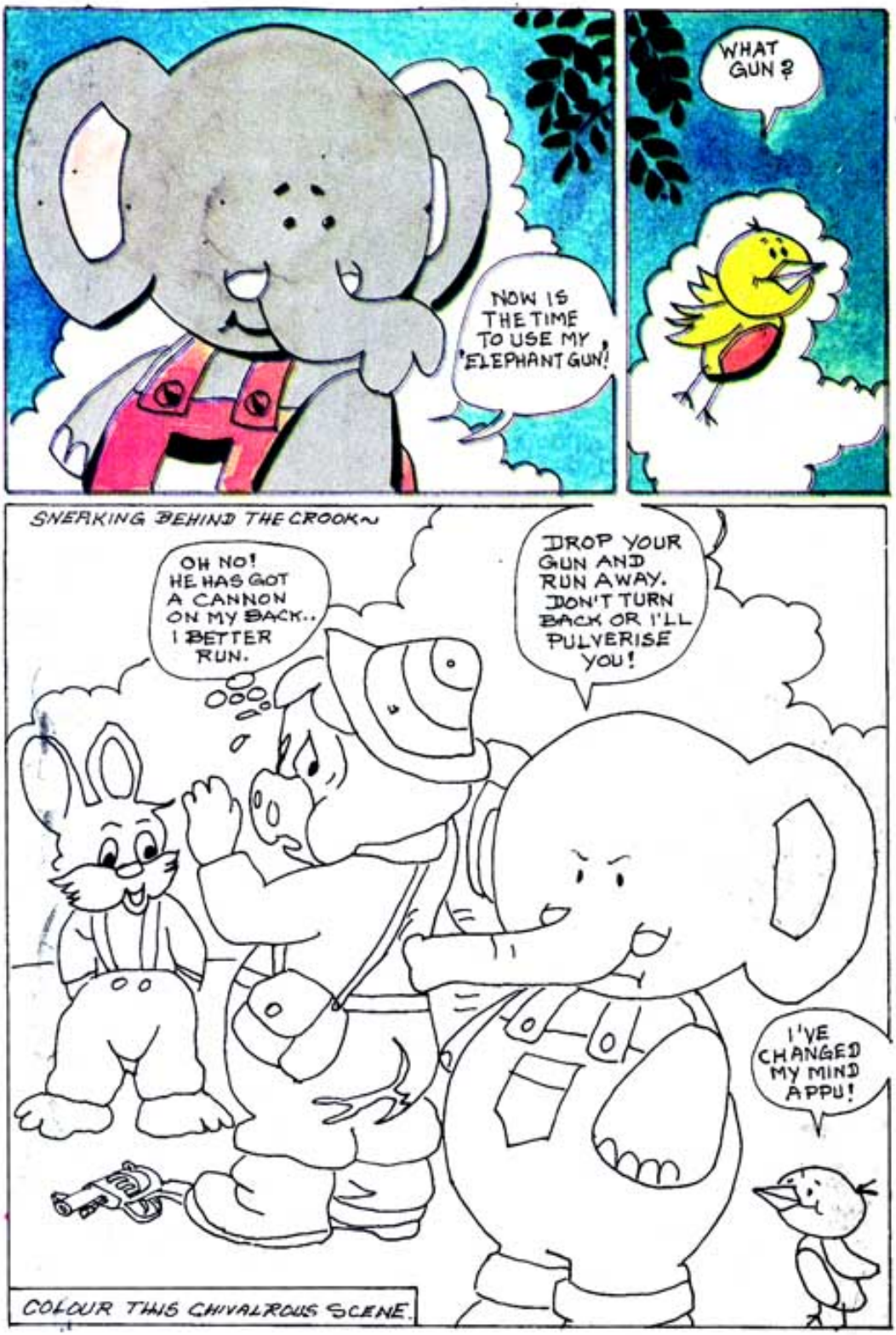
"We tested your courage and sincereity. I am moved by your sense of duty and devotion to our guru. I shall grant you a boon. Ask for one" said Nandini as she gently touched Dilipan's head.

Dilipan folded his hands and asked, "Oh Nandini! Please bless me and Sudakshina with a good son who will be worthy of the Surya Vamsa."

Nandini granted the king's wish. When they returned to the Ashram, Sage Vasishta and the others heard all about what had happened in the forest. Vasishta praised Dilipan for his courage and loyalty. The king and queen drank the milk that Nandini gave them and after being blessed by their guru returned to their palace. In a few months, a little prince was born to them.

- ANANDHI


APPU-KUKU IN
ELEPHANT GUN
HEY APPU! THE ONLY THING YOU DO WITH YOUR TRUNK IS EAT!
YOU ARE JUST JEALOUS, KUKU!
STORY & PICTURE: J. DISNEY
BEHIND THE BUSHES
HAND ME ALL YOU HAVE... OR I WILL BLAST YOU!
PLEA...SE! DON'T SHOOT! I'LL GIVE YOU EVERYTHING I HAVE.
LOOK AT THAT BANDIT!
COME ON, DO SOME THING APPU!

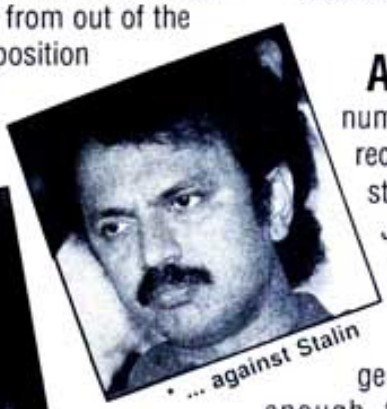

NOW IS THE TIME TO USE MY 'ELEPHANT GUN!'
WHAT GUN ?
SNEAKING BEHIND THE CROOK~
OH NO! HE HAS GOT A CANNON ON MY BACK.. I BETTER RUN.
DROP YOUR GUN AND RUN AWAY. DON'T TURN BACK OR I'LL PULVERISE YOU!
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND APPU!
COLOUR THIS CHIVALROUS SCENE.

MR. GILL IN GUJARAT

General Musharraf has held an election or referendum in a rather funny way. Opposition parties were not allowed to field their candidates. The people of Pakistan had only to mark 'yes' or 'no' to Musharraf continuing as President. Without a second choice, naturally they voted in his favour. Though he got a big majority from out of the votes polled, the opposition parties have accused him of rigging!

★★★

• A law directed...



• ... against Stalin

With murders, looting and arson continuing unabated in Gujarat, the opposition has been clamouring for the ouster of the chief minister Modi. But the B.J.P. led central government would not yield. They finally agreed in the Rajya Sabha to use article 355 of the constitution. This provision empowers the center to intervene in the affairs of a state to maintain law and order and to ensure that the state government functions according to the constitution. Acting on this section, the center has appointed Mr. Gill as the security adviser to the state of Gujarat. Gill is considered to be a strong man and it is hoped that his experience will help him to restore normalcy in Gujarat.

★★★

After the tragic death of Mr. Balayogi in a helicopter crash, Mr. Joshi has been elected as the speaker of the Lok Sabha. He was the lone candidate of the ruling N.D.A. and since the opposition did not field any candidate, he becomes the unanimous choice.

★★★

Apart from levying a record number of new taxes to fetch a record amount of revenue to the state, Tamilnadu chief minister Jayalalitha has enacted several new laws, some of which have become controversial. The bill to abolish plastics is generally welcomed, but it is felt enough time should be given to manufacturers, traders and users to switch over to something else. The law to ban smoking in public places and the ban on pan masala are well intended. The laws which permit bars in liquor shops and which prohibits strikes in essential services have come in for strong criticism. The most talked about law is the one which prevents a person from holding two public offices. It is considered to be directed against a single individual Mr. Stalin, who is both an M.L.A. and Mayor of Chennai. Needless to say, Stalin belongs to the opposition D.M.K. party and is the son of the former chief minister M. Karunanidhi.

A NEW LIFE OR NEW LEAF?

It is June! How do you respond to this statement? Oh, Wow! or Oh, No! Well it is the same way one responds to a glass half filled with water. It is both half full and half empty! When I was your age, I do remember distinctly counting the days for school to reopen. It is not that we were bored with our vacation, or were enjoying it but we were also waiting to get back to action. The thrill of buying our school books, covering them with brown paper and getting the whole bag ready was something we will never forget. (We did not even have the kind of trendy smart bags you have these days.) Polished shoes and uniforms all laid out... and yes! The joy of wanting to meet our friends and catch up with what we did during the holidays. Phones were a luxury and chatting on the net was not even a figment of our imagination!

The wonderful thing about a vacation is that at the end of it you want to get back to work. Starting homework used to be something one looked forward to since a new book inspired respect and you wanted to put in your best and most neat work. There was the joy of looking forward to finishing the daily lesson since there was very little to catch up with anyway. It was almost like a new life! I remember swearing to myself that I would turn a new leaf and continue with this newly found love for school and studies. I can say I did my best though the feeling did not last too long!

A new life, is a chance of a new beginning, a chance to get your act together atleast this year. It is not just about new uniforms and new books and bags and water bottles, but a change in attitude, a rejuvenation, the courage to try to do things more efficiently and effectively. A new beginning means that there is hope, there is a way. Use this opportunity to put the past behind, look ahead and greet life. Shed negative thoughts and prejudices. Forget that you hate so and so in your class and this teacher and that subject. Give it all a fair chance. After all you are giving yourself a chance. As you polish your shoes and iron your uniform, also dust the cobwebs from your mind! Keep your mind, spirit and outlook clean and clear. Resolve to give it your best. It is your life after all. Do you deserve anything less than that?

Best of Luck!

Jyoti Swaroop
Scholastic India

The Asian 'KICK-OFF'

It all begins on May 31, 2002 with the blow of a whistle. It will go on for four weeks starting from the opening game in Seoul, South Korea to the final game on June 30, in Yokohama, Japan.

Soccer has been a very popular 'world sport' for a long time. But, the FIFA World Cup 2002 is being held for the first time in Asia! The honour is shared by two leading nations - South Korea and Japan.

The number of game sites spread over these two countries is twenty and 32 teams will fight in eight groups for a place in the finals. Billions of viewers (estimated over 50 billion) will view this spectacular sports event on television and millions will watch it live!

Well in Advance!

Preparations are already on for the next World Cup 2006 to be held in Germany. Twelve official venues are announced. Munich is expected to host the opening game and Berlin the commercial capital, the closing game. Munich has the New Allianz - Arena, the 66,000 spectator construction surrounded by a diamond shaped translucent colourful envelope!

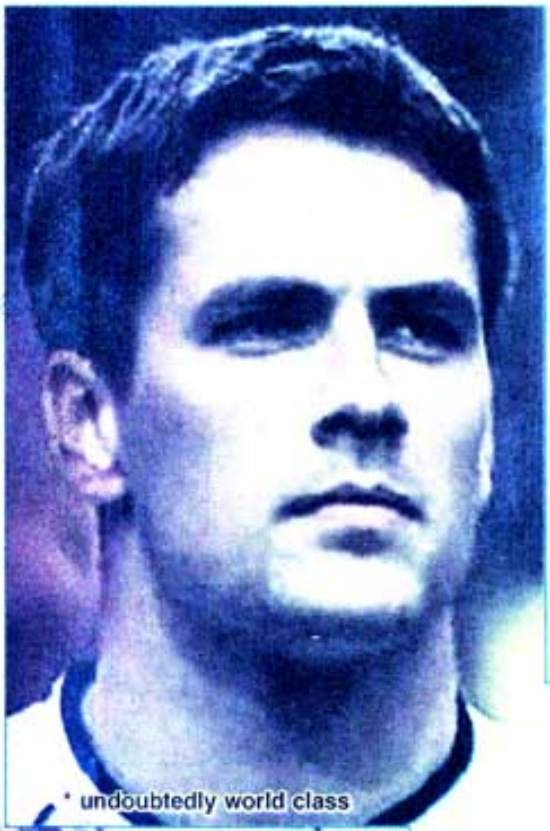
Television coverage of the English, Spanish and Italian premier league tournaments mean that school kids now know the names of all the top players around the world.

Naturally, the English premier league is the one kids watch with the most interest - it is very highly advertised, and the best players all over the world

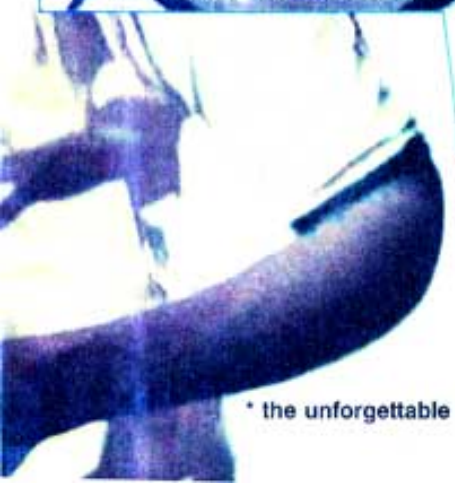
figure in it. But, if everyone is expecting England to win this world cup... I'm sorry, you're almost certain to be disappointed. David Beckham and Micheal Owen are undoubtedly world class players, but the defence, and the midfield support is poor, to put it mildly.

All the pros warn the audience to look out for two teams this year : Italy and Argentina. Everyone is familiar with Argentina/Manchester United's Juan Sebastian Veron, who can score a goal from anywhere within 50 metres of the goal post, and the amazing Batistuta. For Italy, there's Alexander Del Pierro and Christian Vieri.

Ofcourse who can forget the brilliant Brazilians? But the word on the street is, the Brazilians have lost some of their brilliance - despite having world class performers like Roberto Carlos and the unforgettable but inconsistent Rivaldo. Also, consider Germany. Bayern Munich won the Champions League, and they provide Germany with arguably the best goalkeeper in the game, Oliver Kahn. In mid-field they have Hamann, and in front, the brilliant Effenberg. Finally, the defending champions France - defenitely the most exciting side to watch. They have Arsenal's Thierry Henry in front, and Patrick Viera and the 65 million dollar



* undoubtedly world class



* the unforgettable

man, Zenadine Zidane in midfield. Could they pull off the unbelievable and win back to back world cups?

Bulletin Board

* The idea of the game was born in China. The game was then called TSU CHU.

* Men of the army of Julius Caesar first brought the game to England in the 12th century. It was named 'foot ball' by the English.

* Between the period 1200 - 1650, the game was banned

for it was thought to be wild and dangerous!

* King Charles II resumed the game once again and made it popular during the 17th century.

* The laws of the game were framed in the year 1863.

* The idea of having a trophy for a World Cup Tournament was first announced in 1930 during the Uruguay International Football tournament.

* The trophy for the first World Cup was designed by a French sculptor Abel Labier. Made of gold, it weighed 3.8 kgs and was 35 cms tall.

* When Brazil won the World Cup three times (1958, 1962, 1970) the trophy was handed over to them.

* In 1966, this trophy was lost! It was stolen when on display at an exhibition held before the World Cup tournament in England. Later it was found buried in a garden and was handed over to Brazil in 1970.

* The FIFA was formed in 1904 in France and had only seven members initially.

* The present trophy was designed by Italy's Sylvio Gojamika and is called the FIFA trophy.

* Now the original trophy is always in the custody of the FIFA. Only a replica of it is given to the winning nation.

* Uruguay won the first World Cup Tournament.

* World Cup tournaments are held once in four years and every match is played for a 90 minute duration, with eleven players in each team.

* Football featured in the Olympic Games for the first time in 1900.

* The most spectacular goals shot in the World Cup tournaments are those of Brazil's Pele (1958) and Argentina's Maradonna (1986).

* Brazil is the only country that has played in every World Cup tournament.

- Abhinav Ramnarayan

Cover Illustration : **Jayaraj**

GOKULAM

SCHOLASTIC

GALA CONTEST

Dear children,

Some of you send in your entries for this gala contest through e-mail. We connot accept those entries. You will have to fill in the entry from that appears in the issue and mail it to us. This is a monthly contest and hence the last date cannot be extended under any circumstances. Be quick then! Good luck!

ANSWERS TO GALA CONTEST 8

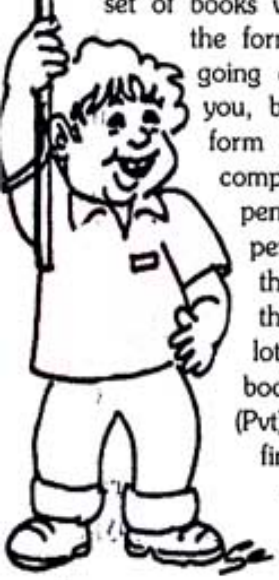
Circles **11** *Triangles* **9** *Squares* **7**

LUCKY WINNERS

1. **U. BEENA ANIRJITHA**
   Hyderabad
2. **K.N. DEEPTHI**
   Mangalore
3. **SUYASH PANDEY**
   Mumbai
4. **S. KARTHIK**
   Mysore

RULES AND REGULATIONS

◆ There will be a contest every month. ◆ Four lucky winners will receive a set of books worth Rs.250/- each, from Scholastic India (P) Ltd. ◆ Fill in the form on the next page and mail it to us. ◆ Strictly for school going children. ◆ Any number of entries can be sent by you, but no photocopies. ◆ All details asked for in the form must be filled in and complete. Entries without complete details will be rejected. ◆ Use a ball point pen to write. Write neatly and clearly. ◆ The person with an 'all-correct' entry is the winner. If there are more than one 'all-correct' entries, then the lucky winner/s will be decided by a draw of lot, from out of the all correct entries. ◆ The books will be sent to you direct by Scholastic India (Pvt) Ltd. Their decision with the choice of books is final. ◆ The last date for receiving entries for each contest will be mentioned in the entry form.



GOKULAM - SCHOLASTIC

GALA CONTEST - 9

ENTRY FORM

Last Date : 12.06.2002

Name : .....

Age : ..... Class: .....

School : .....

Residential : .....

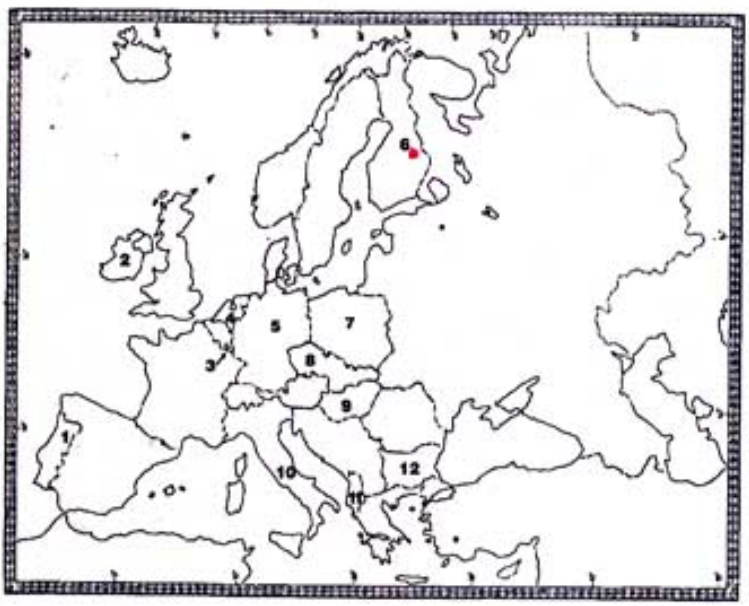
Address .....

..... Pin : .....

Signature : .....

EURO - SEARCH

Identify the countries marked on the map and write the correct number against the name of that country.



Albania _____

Bulgaria _____

Czechoslovakia ___

Finland _____

Germany _____

Hungary _____

Ireland _____

Italy _____

Luxembourg _____

Netherlands _____

Poland _____

Portugal _____

Mail to :

Editor,
Gokulam (English),
47, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, CHENNAI - 600 097.

THE MANGO TREE THAT WALKS!

The village Bhilwadi, in Gujarat is well known for the deep green mango tree that walks. It is situated about a kilometre from Sanjan, a coastal town in South Gujarat, along the Western Railway from Mumbai to Vadodra.

The mango tree's knotted, bow-like trunk and drooping branches have stood the test of time. The tree is believed to have been planted by the first Parsi settlers who brought it from Iran, the country they left for good, and took refuge in Sanjan.

The mango tree has its own tale to tell. It is said that the tree has traversed a distance of about 4 km in all these years. A 75-year-old Warli woman says that it was at least 40 metres away from the present spot when she was in her teens!

As the tree grows, its branches extend in a bow-like shape. When the extended branches touch the ground, they begin to take root. Once they are firmly rooted, the original trunk dries up. In botanical jargon, such trees are referred to as trees with creeping stems. They have thick stems or branches, which run along the surface of the ground, partially or entirely beneath it.

As of today, the mango tree, with its one metre radius trunk, stands in a field owned by one Ahmedbhai. One of its branches, however, is trying to take root in a neighbouring field owned by one Vallabhbhai.

The local Parsis have appealed to the Gujarat Government to get the tree declared as a national heritage site and acquire the land around it. The Government maintains that there is no provision in the present law to protect a tree!

- G.V. Joshi

TIME FOR FUN

I. WHEN INDEPENDENCE?

Match

A	B
1. Afghanistan	a. 24th June
2. Srilanka	b. 1st January
3. France	c. 14th August
4. Pakistan	d. 4th February
5. Australia	e. 19th August
6. Thailand	f. 14th July

- Priya Moorthy, Std. IX, Bangalore.

II. HUSBANDS AND WIVES

Name the wives of the following mythological characters :

1. Nala -	6. Bharata -
2. Dhritarashtra -	7. Ravana -
3. Indra -	8. Shiva -
4. King Pandu -	9. Satyavan -
5. Agastya -	10. Lakshmana -

- M.K.Suganya, Std. VIII, S.I.E.S. High School, Matunga, Mumbai.

III. CAN YOU?

a) A zoo has thirty heads and hundred feet. Can you guess how many beasts and birds live in the zoo?

b) A sculptor wants to display ten of his statues in an exhibition in a particular way. He insists that there must be three statues against the four walls of a room. Can you arrange the statues?

c) Can you make half of thirteen to be eight?

- M. Vinodh, Vriddhachalam

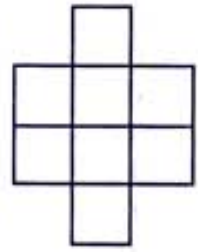
IV. QUIZ TIME

1. Name the first U.S. President to move into the white house.
2. What is the Japanese parliament called?
3. Who composed the ballet 'The Fire-Bird'?
4. Who wrote the 'Ram Charitra Manas?'
5. What is the boundary between Russia and Poland called?

- T.S. Balu, Chennai.

V. FUN TIME

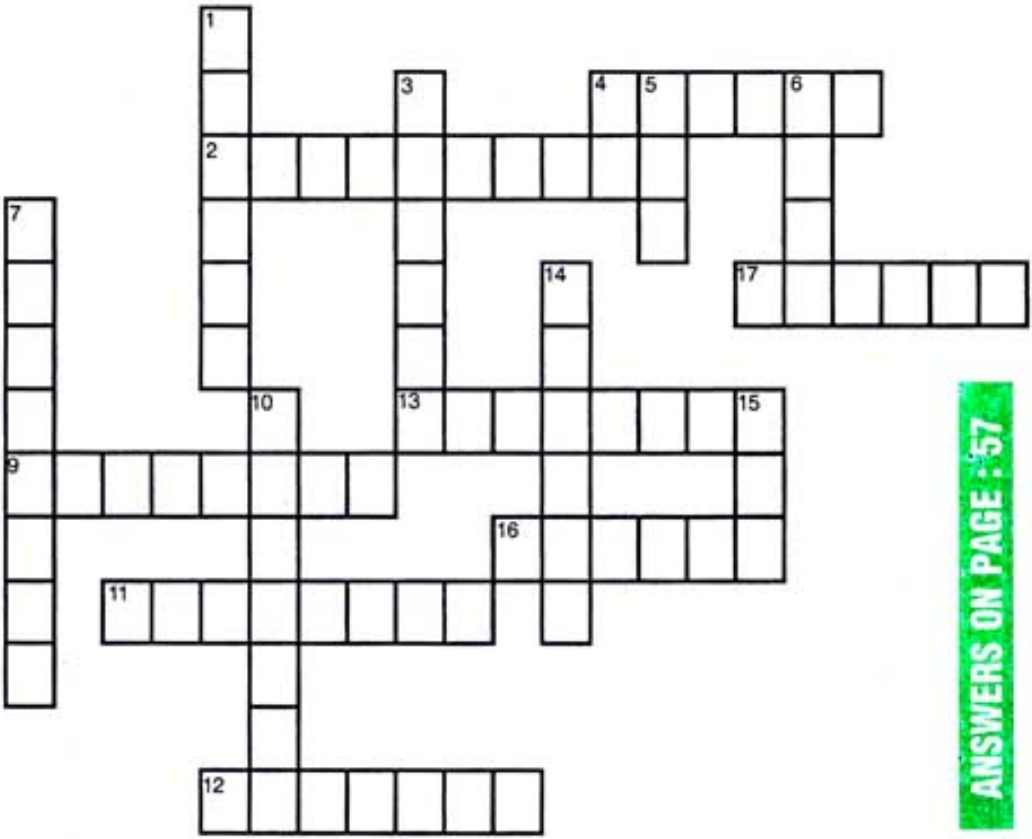
a) Arrange the numbers 1 to 8 in the eight squares given below such that no two adjacent numbers are placed next to each other.



b) There are 6 sticks. Add 5 more sticks to make it 9.

- J.Poornimaa, Bangalore.

VI. MYTH HUNT



ANSWERS ON PAGE : 57

Across

2) Guru of the devas (10)

4) The name of the *kanda* in Ramayana in which Ravana abducts Sita (6)

9) The author of Kumarasambhavam and Meghaduta (8)

11) Ravana's son (8)

12) The place in Tamil Nadu where the famous Brihadeeshwara temple is located (7)

13) Bheeshma's father (8)

16) Indra and Kunti's son (6)

17) Lord Vishnu's first avatar (6)

Down

1) Lord of wealth (6)

3) Abode of Lord Shiva (6)

5) The most ancient Veda (3)

6) Lord of death (4)

7) Language of the Vedas (8)

10) Birthplace of Sri Krishna (7)

14) Place in India where the sun temple is located (6)

15) Lord Shiva's wife (3)

- G. Vaishnavi, Age 15,
Chinmaya Vidyalaya,
Chennai - 92.

J•A•Y•A•B•A•L•A•N

THE BEAR TRAP

Deep in the forests of Jayabalpore there lived a notorious brigand called Sandalappan. People trembled at the very mention of his name.

There had been several attempts to capture him. The former police chief, Degappiasam, had tried his best to catch the bandit before going away to America for a while. But nothing came of it. Sandalappan tried to get into the Bigness Book of Records by showing off his huge moustache. But Degappiasam succeeded in beating him there, for his moustache was bigger than the bandit's!

Many people came to King Jayabalan to complain about the attrocities of the bandit.

The king pulled up Sigainasam, the home minister; Sigainasam scolded Athiradi, the police chief; Athiradi yelled at his subordinates; and the subordinates shouted at each other. And that was that. Sandalappan continued to be elusive.

The king shrugged his shoulders helplessly. "What can we do?" he said. "Sandalappan seems to be smarter than all of us!"

And so it seemed. Everyone had lost interest in capturing the brigand. And Sandalappan roamed freely, not only in the jungle, but also in the city of Jayabalpore. He even stopped and chatted with people. When they asked him about the efforts of the police to catch him, Sandalappan laughed uproariously.

"Catch me?" he sneered. "Those nincompoops may as

well try to catch a falling star!" And then he guffawed loudly.

Then things changed dramatically. Degappiasam returned from America. And he went to the palace straightaway to meet the king.

The king was sitting with his ministers when Degappiasam entered and saluted smartly.

"So, you're back, Degappiasam" said the king.

"Yes, Your Majesty" said Degappiasam. "It is good to be back home."

"What do you intend to do now?" asked Solmannan, the minister for publicity.

"I earned a lot of money in America" said Degappiasam. "I can now relax and enjoy life. But I want to do something for my country."

"There was some unfinished business here, if I remember right" said Ayalaan.

"He means Sadalappan" said Varisumai.

"Exactly, Sir" said Degappiasam. "I would like to have another go at capturing that rascal."

"Like last time?" Ganabadi asked, and started chuckling until his whole body jiggled like jelly.

"I have some new ideas for his capture" said Degappiasam.

"Such as?" asked Sigainasam.

"We must have the co-operation of the Cantata police. It should be a joint venture."

"Any other ideas?" Sigainasam asked.

"I do have a few tricks up my sleeve" said Degappiasam, looking all around very proudly. "But it is better to keep them secret for now."

"Make sure the tricks don't trickle out of your sleeve" said the king, and laughed at his own wit. All the others dutifully joined in. Solmannan laughed so much that he had a fit of coughing, and had to leave the room.

"All right, Degappiasam" said Sigainasam. "Contact me tomorrow and we will arrange something."

Very soon Degappiasam was off to the forest, where he met the Cantata police chief whose name was Hullagulla.

Hullagulla was short and plump in contrast to the tall and trim Degappiasam. So when they stood

together Hullagulla made sure that he stood on a rock or some raised surface so that Degappiasam wouldn't tower over him. But still there was a difference in height.

"Well, Hullagulla" said Degappiasam one day in their joint forest camp. "We must have some plan for capturing that blackguard."

"Let's just scatter and search" said Hullagulla, obviously reluctant to think too much.

"We have been doing that for ages" said Degappiasam. "We need some new strategy."

While they sat and talked in their tent, the men under their command were going about the forest in a long and futile combing operation.

"How about a bear trap?" Degappiasam asked.

"There are no bears in this forest" said Hullagulla, bewildered.

"I mean a bear trap for the brigand."

"I don't get you."

Degappiasam put his arm around the shoulders of Hullagulla. "See here, Hullagulla" he said. "The bear trap is a deep pit covered with light twigs and grass. Anyone stepping on these twigs will fall into the pit. Inside the pit we have some spikes. The man will land on these and get immobilised. Get it?"

"Sure. But where do we dig these pits?"

"Everywhere in the forest. We make several bear traps, and Sandalappan is sure to fall into one of these. Then we handcuff him and take him to the king in triumph."

"Your king or our king?" Hullagulla asked.

"King Jayabalan of course."

"Why not our king?"

"Because we have been searching for the brigand longer than you have."

"But we have got closer to him than you have."

"Let's take him first to Jayabalpore, and then we can take him to Cantata."

"Let's take him first to Cantata and then to Jayabalpore."

"No. Jayabalpore first!"

"Cantata first."

"Let's dig the bear traps first" Degappiasam snapped.

And so the men started digging the pits in many places in the forest. Meanwhile Degappiasam and

---

Father : Why are you crying Pranav?

Pranav : I have lost five rupees.

Father : Never mind darling. Here take another five. (Pranav continues to cry...)

Father : What's the matter now?

Pranav : I wish I had lost ten rupees!

- Hemant Kumar, Std. VIII, Sainik School, Udumalpet.

Hullagulla sat in their tent arguing about where the brigand should be taken first.

Nothing happened for several days. The police teams went to check the bear traps every morning.

There was some excitement one day when a donkey was found in one of the traps. They pulled it out with great difficulty and chased it off. Some more days passed.

One morning Hullagulla rose early and set out on his morning walk. Degappiasam was relaxing in bed. Suddenly there was a commotion outside. Some policemen came in

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!

Dear Readers,

★ You are most welcome to send in your contributions to **Gokulam** either by post or by e-mail. However, there is no guarantee that it will be published. It is also not possible for us to tell you when it will be published. But, if you require your contributions to be sent back to you on rejection, then you must enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope.

And remember every contribution sent by you should give details of your **- Name, Age, Class, Name and address of school, Residential address and a declaration stating that the contribution is your original creation (if not the source must be mentioned).**

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE

You will receive a **participation certificate** from us if your contribution is published. At the end of the one year period ending June 2002, the person with most number of participation certificates will receive a special prize. Collect your certificates and keep them carefully.

AWAIT THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

WISH YOU GOOD LUCK!

– Editor

excitedly.

"Something has been caught in one of the traps, Sir" said one, saluting the chief.

"It sounds like a large animal, Sir" said another.

"Maybe, a rhino!" said the third policeman.

"Nonsense" said Degappiasam. "There are no rhinos in this forest."

"Hope it is not another ass" a policeman said.

"Let's go and see" said Degappiasam leaping out of his bed. "It could be Sandalappan or one of his men."

So they all rushed off to the trap. As they neared it, they heard a lot of bellowing and screaming coming from it.

They cautiously moved the twigs and the grass and peered inside. And there shouting and cursing lay Hullagulla!

When they had succeeded in pulling him out, he turned angrily to Degappiasam and said : "You and your stupid ideas! I am going back to Cantata and you can go after the brigand all by yourself."

And then the Cantata police marched away.

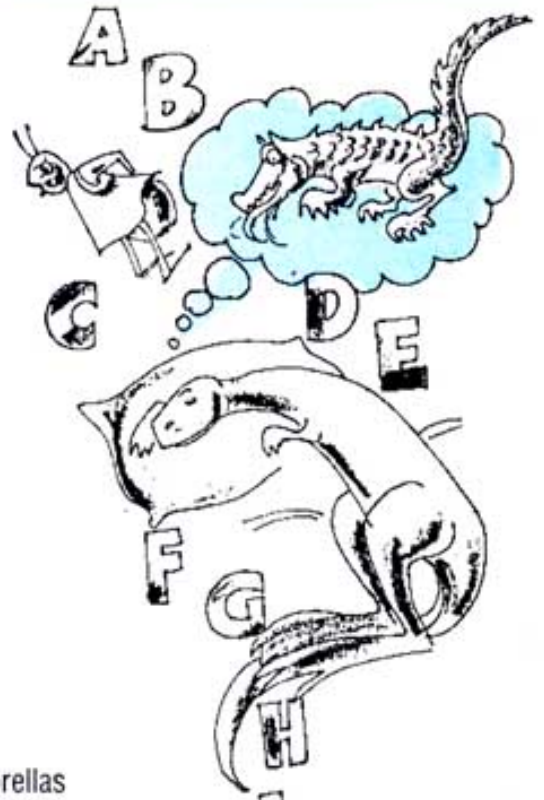
Degappiasam couldn't bear the thought of facing the king and his ministers. So he quietly slipped off and boarded a ship back to America, where he felt he would be appreciated more.

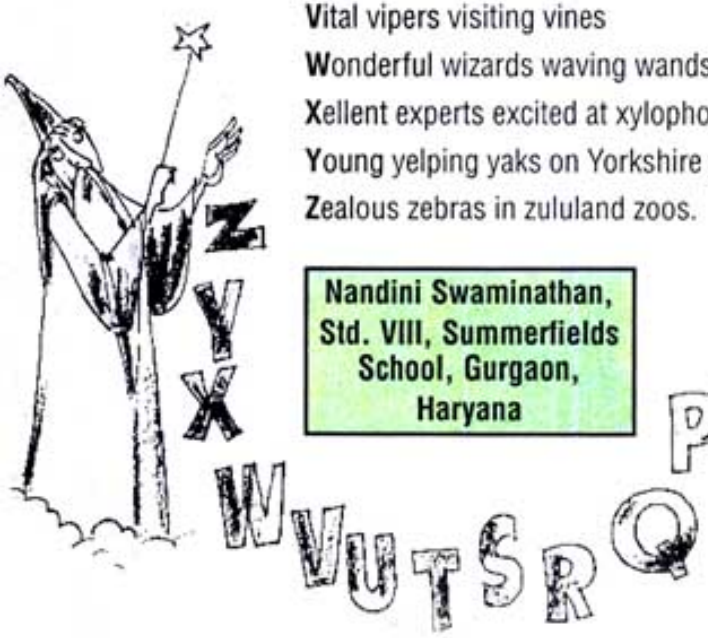
Sandalappan laughed loud and long when he heard about this!

- Janakan

ALPHABETIC NONSENSE!

Angry ants aiming arrows
Buzzing bees buying boxes
Creaky crabs clanging cowbells
Dozing dinosaurs dreaming of dragons
Eager elephants eating eggplants
Flies flying and fish frying
Gorgeous giraffes goggling at gorillas
Handsome horses hitchhiking Hondas
Intelligent iguanas inking innings
Jumping jalopies jogging to Jodhpur
Kangaroos keeping kites
Lovely luminous lamps lighting lifts
Moaning mummies making money
Nosey nocturnal Ninjas naming nests
Official octopuses ordering omelets
Parrots punching people parking
Queen's quilts quails quacking
Ravenous ravens relishing rice
Slithering serpents sipping some soda
Tropical trees talking together
Unicorns undertaking to understand umbrellas
Vital vipers visiting vines
Wonderful wizards waving wands
Xellent experts excited at xylophones
Young yelping yaks on Yorkshire yam
Zealous zebras in zululand zoos.





Nandini Swaminathan, Std. VIII, Summerfields School, Gurgaon, Haryana

FIGHTING FOR

SUSAN BETH ANTHONY

Susan B.Anthony (1820-1906) was a pioneer in working for women's rights especially the right to vote. Ms. Anthony felt that women could do anything men could do and had the right to be heard.

Susan was the target of newspaper articles and cartoons that made fun of her ideas. When she tried to speak, jeering crowds shouted her down. She even suffered abuse from the other women who felt it was their place to stay at home and do what their husbands told them to do.

Susan worked for many years to try to make people understand that the words of the United States constitution, 'we the people' meant all the people. She stressed that all citizens deserved all the privileges under the law, not only men.

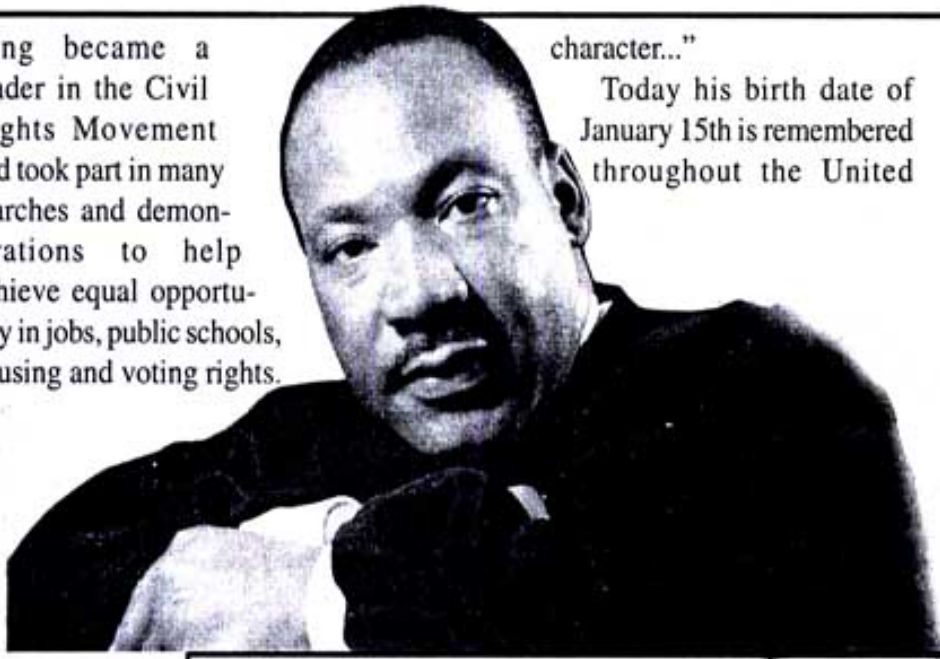
When Anthony died in 1906, women still had not achieved the right to vote but some progress had been made in women's rights. More women were becoming actively involved in putting pressure on the congress. They fought for better working conditions and equal pay. Because of leaders like Susan Beth Anthony, women were granted the right to vote in 1919 and with the approval of the nineteenth amendment 'we the people' finally included women.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. He has been one of the country's most exceptional leaders in the fight for peaceful equality for African Americans.

During the 1950's, Martin Luther

King became a leader in the Civil Rights Movement and took part in many marches and demonstrations to help achieve equal opportunity in jobs, public schools, housing and voting rights.



On August 28, 1963, a massive civil demonstration was held in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Dr. King spoke to more than 250,000 people about his dream.

EQUALITY

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they are not judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character..."

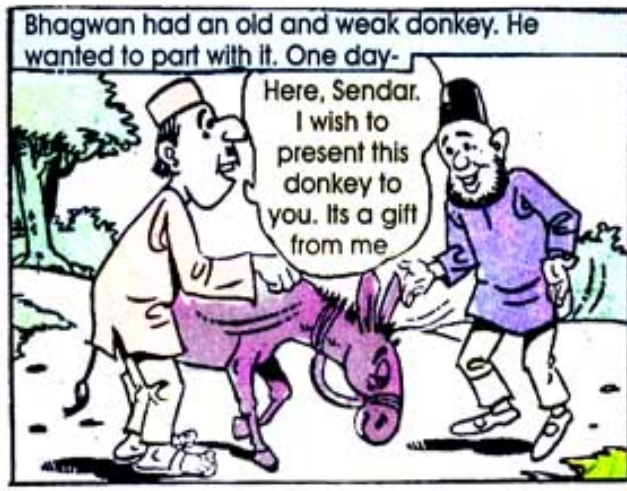
Today his birth date of January 15th is remembered throughout the United States. It is a time for people everywhere to think of this great man and his great ideas of freedom and fairness for all.

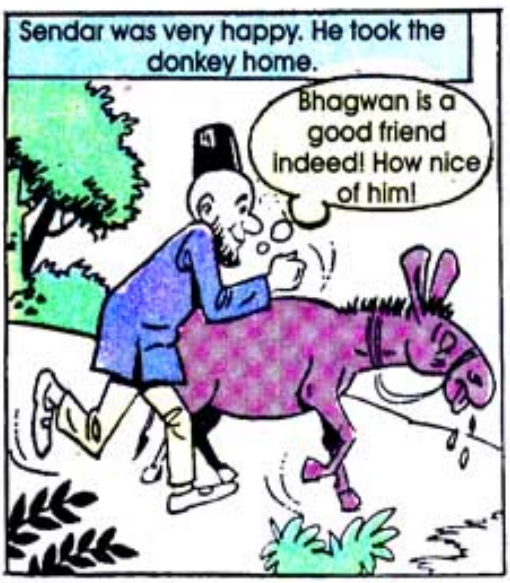
- Sumana Vardhan, Std. III, Nergie Elementary School, Illinois, USA.

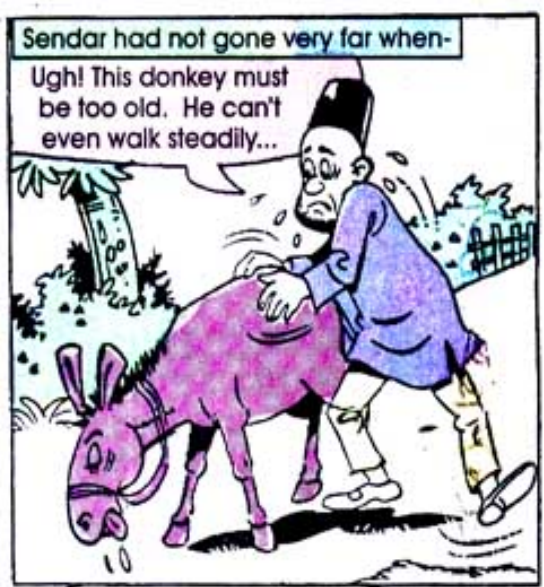
AN INDONESIAN FOLK TALE

THE NOSE CUT!

- MOHAN
- SHAJI MATHEW







MALAY FEATURES WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

Hello Sendar! Where are you off to?
I am going to the mosque to pray.
But its only Tuesday today... not Friday!
And not only that! The mosque is quite near too!
Ha! Ha! Why go today then for Friday's prayer?
What else can one expect from this old donkey. He needs all that time to reach the mosque... Hee! Hee!
Bhagwan deserves this nose cut!
MALAY FEATURES WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

THE POEM

Sudha ran up the stairs to the terrace. She had with her a few sheets of paper and a pen. She was going to write poetry.

The chirping of the sparrows on the neem tree which stood on the other side of the compound wall was distracting. Sudha soon found that she could not concentrate.

The sparrows flew back and forth from the tree to the wall to eat the food that mom had left there. Soon Sudha was lost in thoughts.

"Mom must have left some food for these pretty things. How excited and yet how tense they seem; what a din they create..."

Sudha decided to observe the tiny birds for a while.

"There are about nine of them... Or am I counting the same ones again? But surely there's one of them on the tree. He's been there a while now. Maybe he'll make it next time."

The bird on the tree did not move.

"Maybe he has already eaten. But, no, that can't be. I've read that sparrows always ate in groups. Has he had a fight then? That can't be either. Birds have no differences or 'religious' distinctions like us human beings. I wonder then... Why is he not part of the group?"

It was then that Sudha noticed it all - as she watched what the other birds were doing.

"How cute! They seem to be storing food in their tiny beaks. They are not pecking at the food to eat it. They are probably going to carry it in their beaks and take it somewhere..."

Four to five sparrows flew off at the same time - back to the tree and straight to that very lonely bird. Sudha moved gently to take a closer look.

"The poor creature is hurt...he seems to have hurt his wing and leg. And the other birds are feeding him. How united these tiny birds are. They are the 'real' human beings..."

Sudha began to write her poem. She thought she would name it 'The Lonely Sparrow'.

"Or would it be better if I called it 'The Real Human Beings'?"

- Sudha Mathy, Std IX,
RSK HSS, Trichy.

HEY RIDDLE DIDDLE ...

1. Why did the leopard wear a disguise?

2. What did teacher rabbit read to her bunnies?

3. Why did the cow go to school?

4. Why did the cobra go to school?

5. What does a dracula study?

6. To which schools do trees go?

- Mayura S. Dhapare, Std. VII, VPM's B.R.Tol English High School, Mumbai.

7. Which snake is best at arithmetic?

8. What animals always watch their weight?

9. Why are 1980, 1984 and 1988 good years for monkeys?

- K.S. Swapna, Std. X, Shri Anand Jain Vidyalaya, Chennai.

10. What would happen if an eye doctor came into the classroom?

11. Why does a duck look so worried?

12. What would happen if you threw a white rock into the red sea?

13. What has keys and yet can't open locks?

14. What is it that we have in December that we don't have in any other month?

- Vinaya, Std. VI, PSBBSSS, Chennai.

ANSWERS :

1. He didn't want to be spotted!
2. 'Hare' - raising stories!
3. To study 'moo'-sic!
4. To study 'Hiss'-tory!
5. Electro - 'necks'!
6. Elemen - 'tree' schools!
7. The adder!
8. Fish, they always carry their scales!
9. Because they are leap years!
10. He would check the 'pupils'!
11. Because he always has a bill in front of his face!
12. It would get wet!
13. Monkeys, Donkeys and Turkeys!
14. The letter D!

MEN OF THE WOODS

In the warm, wet forests on the islands of Borneo and sumatra in south - east Asia live some long-armed, red haired apes. Long ago the people who lived on the islands believed that these apes were just a different kind of man who wanted to live in the woods. That's why the people named them orang-utan, which means 'man of the woods'.

Orang-utans aren't as big as their cousins the gorillas. A full-grown male orang - utan is usually about one and a half metres tall. He is almost twice as big as his female partner, has large cheek flaps and also a bag-like pouch hanging from his throat that inflates everytime he bellows and makes his "long call".

The orang-utan's ability to remember exactly when and where the fruits of trees can be found is amazing. Orang-utans spend most of their time moving about from tree to tree in search of

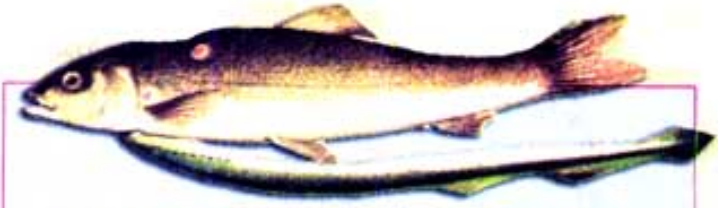
leaves, fruit, buds, insects and eggs of birds to eat. They make nests made out of branches to sleep in during the night and often also a roof over the nest to keep the rain out!

These apes are highly intelligent and prove to be quick learners and good companions of humans. Ironically though, their only enemy is man!

Timber companies are rapidly cutting down the forests where these apes live. People hunt them in large numbers. The hunters kill the mother and take the babies to sell as pets or to zoos. But most babies die due to want of proper care.

Orang-utans are still in great danger although their numbers have grown in the recent past.

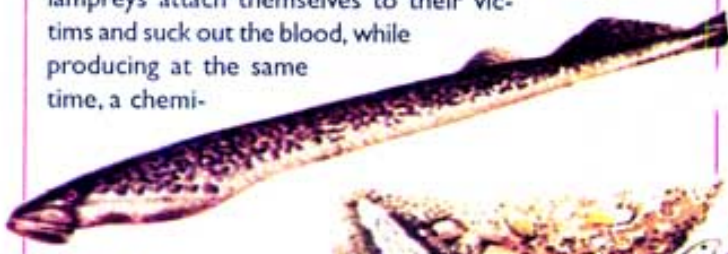
- M. Deepak, Std X, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Coimbatore.



THE JAWLESS FISH

Lampreys belong to the class Agnatha. They are shaped like eels and have no jaws. They have not undergone any change in the last millions of years of their existence. Infact, lampreys and hag fish are the only surving species of this class of jawless animals.

Lampreys live in the temperate zones of both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Their large sucking mouth is full of horny teeth that are used to make a hole in the fish upon which they feed. Their tongue too is beset with teeth and resembles a rasp or file with which we sharpen metal tools. After opening the hole in the body of its prey, lampreys attach themselves to their victims and suck out the blood, while producing at the same time, a chemical that prevents the blood from clotting thus facilitating easy flow. They often remain attached to their prey for weeks together!



* The toothless larva

The life of the lamprey has two distinct stages. The larvae which are blind and toothless live in the mud in fresh-water streams and rivers until they become mature enough to swim downstream to their second home, the ocean.

In the last century, lampreys have invaded the American lakes and caused great havoc to fish. So people were forced to use a special poison to selectively kill these lampreys to save other fish!

- P. Prasana, Std X, Sri Ahobila Math Oriental HSS, Chennai.

* Full of horny teeth

PENPALS

Name : **Gitanjali Jagamohanan**
Age : 15
Address : Vijayalakshmi Nivas, Keralassery (P.O.), Palakkad (Dist.), Kerala - 678 641
Hobbies : Reading, dancing, listening to music, drawing and travelling.

Name : **T. Sireesha**
Age : 13
Address : Ward No.15, Holding No.75/1, Gaterpara, Malancha Road, Kharagpur - 721 301, West Bengal.
Hobbies : Playing badminton and basketball, listening to music, reading books (novels, comics etc.) and writing letters.

Name : **Latha Kannan**
Age : 12
Address : C-102, Kailash Park, Ramachandra Nagar, Vaitiwadi, W.I.E., Thane (W) - 400 604.
Hobbies : Reading Gokulam, dancing, singing, cycling, playing carrom and badminton and making friends.

Name : **V. Yamini Mudaliar**
Age : 12
Address : F-1, Gayatri Bldg., Barlota Nagar, Mamurdi, Dehu Road, Pune - 412 101.
Hobbies : Reading Gokulam, watching T.V., singing, dancing, making friends and collecting stamps.

Name : **A. Sameer**
Age : 17
Address : H.No.894/B, BHEL Township, R.C.Puram, Hyderabad - 502 032.
Hobbies : Reading, travelling, music, cycling, making friends and collecting magazines.

YOURS TRULY...

Name : **S. Aloysius**
Age : 11
Address : 12, Ram Nagar, 2nd Street, Tirupur - 641 602, Coimbatore Dist.

Hobbies : Reading books, watching T.V. and playing foot ball.

Name : **Arjun Das**
Age : 11
Address : 180, Luz Church Road, Chennai - 4
Hobbies : Reading, collecting stamps and cycling.

Name: **R. Shrividhya**
Age : 11
Address: Flat A-8, Block - II, 99, Ponniamman Koil St., Madipakkam, Chennai - 91.
Hobbies: Singing, dancing and playing outdoor games.

Name: **D. Madhu**
Age : 15
Address: C-12/10, D.R.D.O. Township, C.V. Raman Nagar, Bangalore - 560 093.
Hobbies: Reading, music, dancing, making friends and singing.

Name: **Vaishali Verma**
Age : 10
Address: 6, Shivpuri, Near - Home Guard Office, Sitapur (U.P.) Pin-261001.
Hobbies: Watching T.V., travelling and collecting stamps.

Name: **Aneesh R. Hegde**
Age : 13
Address: 'Gowri Nivas', Sahyadri Colony, Sirsi - 581 402, N.K. District, Karnataka.
Hobbies: Playing table tennis, reading books, philately, singing and collecting good books.

BUDDING CHEF

FROZEN ORANGE COOLER

You need:

Large Oranges - 5
Castor sugar
Small fresh bay leaves

Method:

Peel the oranges and run through mixie.

Measure the juice and add 75 grams of sugar for every 225ml of

juice.

Stir until sugar is dissolved.

Pour in a freezer tray and freeze until firm.

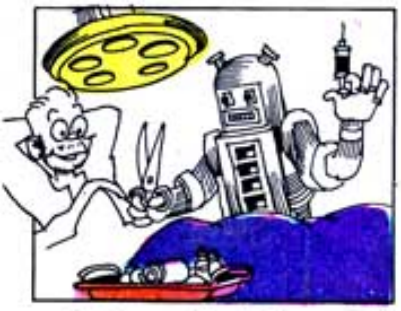
Whisk and pour into bowls or glasses.

Top with bay leaves and freeze again before you enjoy it.

– Pooja Vanchy, VIII - B, Balalok M.H.S. School, Chennai.

TINY MICROBES

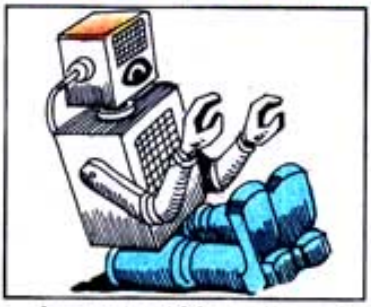
There are tiny microbes living in the ocean, about 8 km below sea level, that eat volcanic rocks. They also drill into the rocks and live in them to be safe from other organisms. These underwater microbes discovered by the scientists from the University of California, Bergen University, and the University of Alberta, have been found to be common creatures of the ocean.



ROBOT SURGEONS

The patient was at Strasbourg, a city in France. The surgeons, who were in Newyork removed the patient's gall bladder. The operation was carried out by a group of robots, linked to the surgeons by a video camera and transatlantic video - conference facilities. The robots followed the doctor's instructions practically instantly, within just 0.15 seconds. This was the first operation entirely done by robots.

DID YOU KNOW?



SLUG BOT

The Slug Bot, being developed at the University of West England, is the world's first fully autonomous robot. It won't need any human care, even to recharge its batteries. Its function is also unique. It is designed to catch slugs and generate electricity from them. Slugs are a major pest in the UK. The Slug Bot uses an electronic eye to locate its prey and grabs them with a long carbon fibre arm. Catching upto 100 an hour, it deposits them in a fermentation tank where bacteria convert them to biogas, which is used to generate electricity!

DINO EGGS

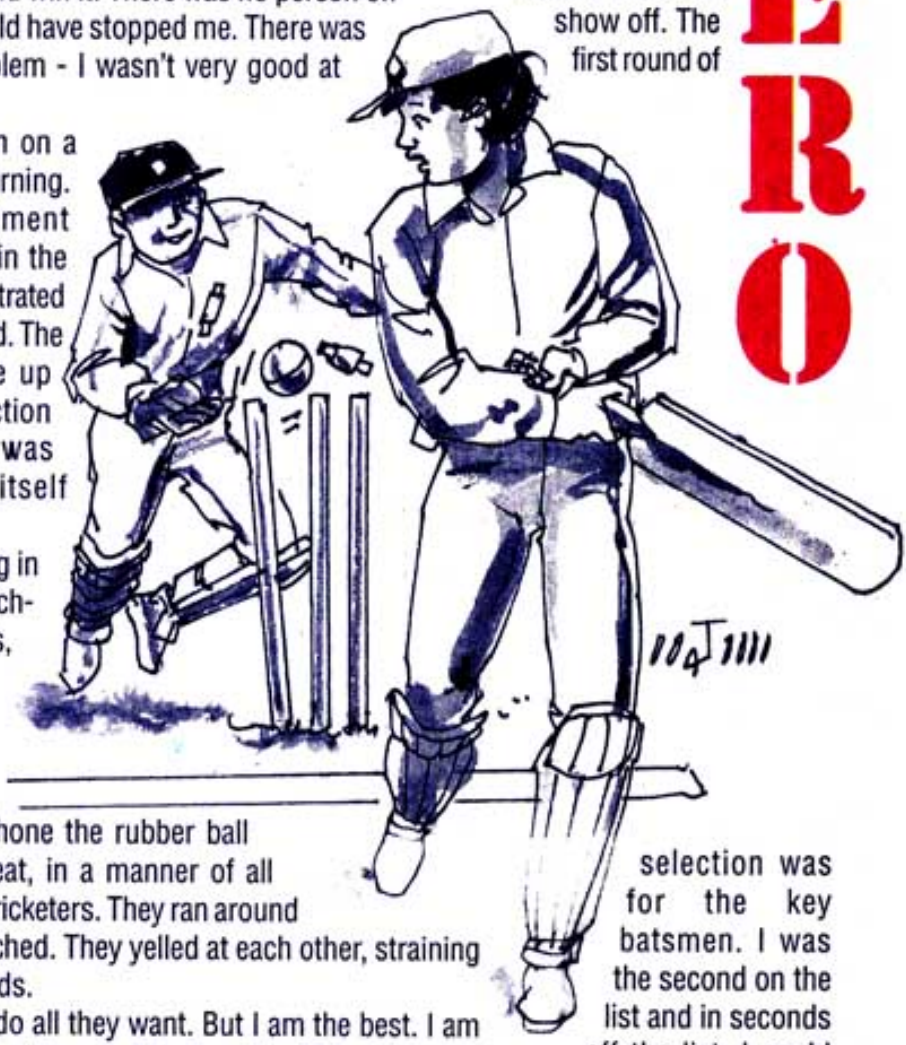
Eighty million years ago, dinosaurs laid eggs on the shores of rivers in South America and some of those got fossilised. Luis M Chippe of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles and his Argentinian colleagues have found six such eggs with foetal remains and even a complete skeleton of a titanosaurs, a 4-footed long-necked dinosaur.

- SURESH K. ANJUM, Kolkatta

THE HERO

I'll never forget the summer of the year 1998. Not just because I had turned thirteen. There was a reason that was bigger than the whole world. The Big Boys Cricket Tournament. It was the biggest thing happening in my neighbourhood. The eligibility age was thirteen and I was thirteen this year. I was going to play the tournament and win it. There was no person on earth who could have stopped me. There was only one problem - I wasn't very good at cricket!

It all began on a hot, sultry morning. The excitement which lurked in the air, got concentrated on the play field. The banners were up and the selection committee was getting itself together.



I was sitting in the stands watching all the boys, who were elder to me, warm up. They played catch. They shone the rubber ball with their sweat, in a manner of all professional cricketers. They ran around and they stretched. They yelled at each other, straining their vocal cords.

"They can do all they want. But I am the best. I am better than all of them", I declared to Neha who was sitting beside me. Neha was my good friend. She had an innocent pair of eyes and a nascent beauty for which I adored her. She was partly the reason, why I wanted to win at cricket. She had always been an excellent support whenever I needed it.

Around midday I was ready to exhibit my talents. Twenty minutes later I realized I hadn't much to show off. The first round of selection was for the key batsmen. I was the second on the list and in seconds off the list. I could hardly play three balls well before I was stumped out. It was not long before I found myself sulking in the stands.

I knew I had a chance with my well-developed

power-bowling and thunderbolt fielding skills. I was prepared to face it all. I had lost a bit in the batting part and it would never happen again. But, I was proven wrong once again.

The second round of the selection was for potential fielders and I had atrociously fumbled with the ball.

"I am as good as at least a few of them", I tried to put on a smile for Neha.

"Look at the bright side. If this was a track of a relay race, you would have already won...", she replied wit-fully. She smiled with a dimple on her cheeks. I smiled back.

But I wasn't even able to give her that smile after my third round. I had bowled exceptionally bad that day... "I am not good as any of them", I sulked.

"Well, at least you are better than that one". Neha made a pointing gesture towards Ali. Ali was fifteen. This was the last year he could be in a tournament. It would also be his first, since he never managed to get selected for the team in the past two years. I always wondered why he didn't just quit. I thought that his sole reason for existence was to make me feel better!

The next day the list was out. As I tried to catch my breath, I scanned through the first list. I was disappointed.

"Here", said Neha. "Thirteenth player. A substitute for team 2B. Lets just hope someone breaks a leg and hope its not you."

It had rained the previous night. The pitch was slippery but the show had to go on. In a very unpleasant discreet way, I was happy. May be someone will break a foot and let me into the game.

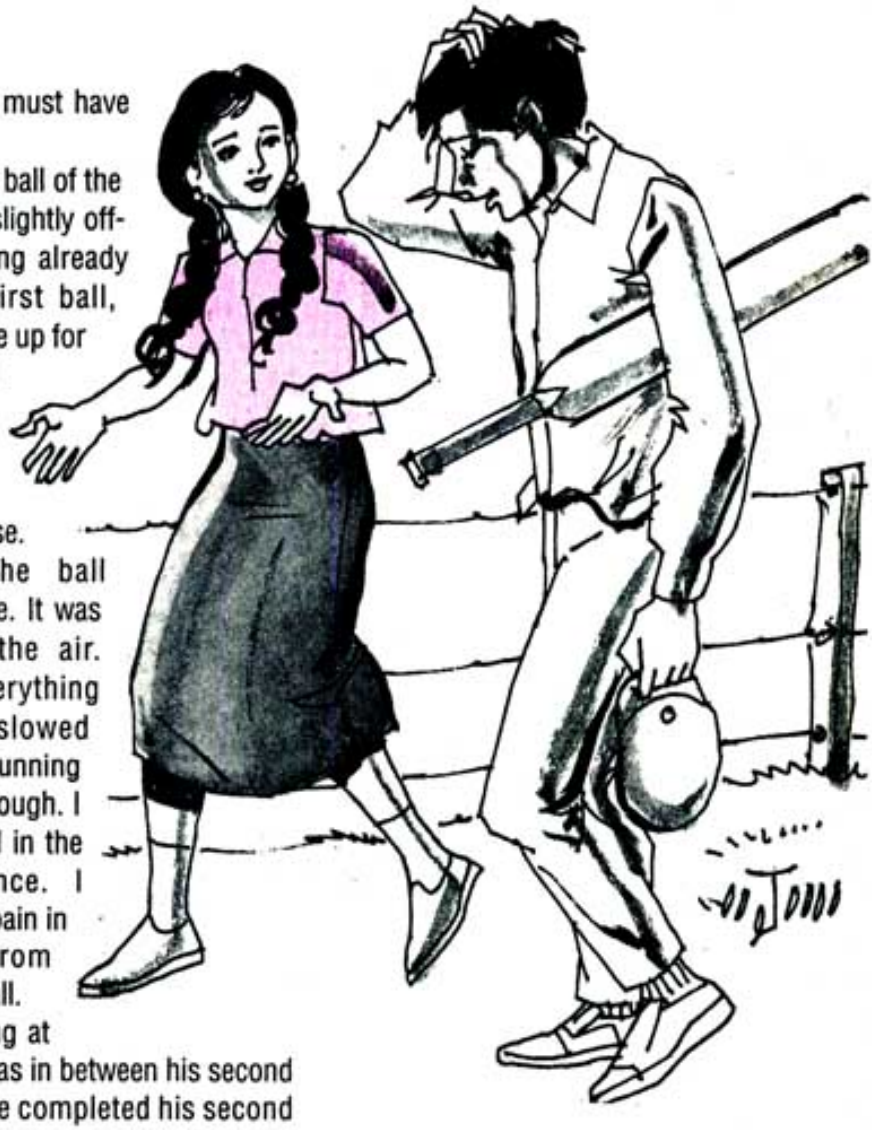
Destiny had proven to be merciful to me. The ace player Saraf had broken his foot and I was asked to get into the play field. By the second half of the game we had a total of two sprained ankles and three bruised elbows. I did not get to bat or bowl but was given an obscure position to field. The only active thing I ever did in my position there was to yawn. I was however, contended to be a part of whatever that was going on.

Three overs to go and the opposition needed sixteen runs. They had four wickets in hand. However, the score board by the last over showed a different picture. They needed three runs and they were down to their last wicket. Despite the excitement in the match I was totally bored. The ball had only twice approached me.

I squinted towards the batting end of the pitch. I tried to recognize the batsman. It was Ali. This was his last match. Two years of utter disappointment but at least he got to play for the team this year. I

knew what he must have gone through.

The second ball of the last over was slightly off-pace. Ali having already missed the first ball, wanted to make up for it. He slammed the ball. The ball made contact with the bat and rose. I realized the ball approached me. It was high up in the air. Suddenly, everything around me slowed down. I was running but not fast enough. I caught the ball in the second bounce. I could feel the pain in my palm from catching the ball.



I was staring at the pitch. Ali was in between his second run. Just as he completed his second run he stared at me. Somewhere in my head I could hear, "2B or not 2B". I experienced a strange feeling trying to realise - why was I just standing there for that few crucial seconds with the ball in my hand, not throwing it towards the stumps? As Ali made his move for the third run, I threw the ball. My throw was not towards the stumps but elsewhere on the pitch. Ali had made his third run.

The volume came back and every frame moved into its normal pace. I knew the 1 B-team had won. Ali had won. The team was cheering Ali. Carrying him on their back ; patting him and calling him a hero.

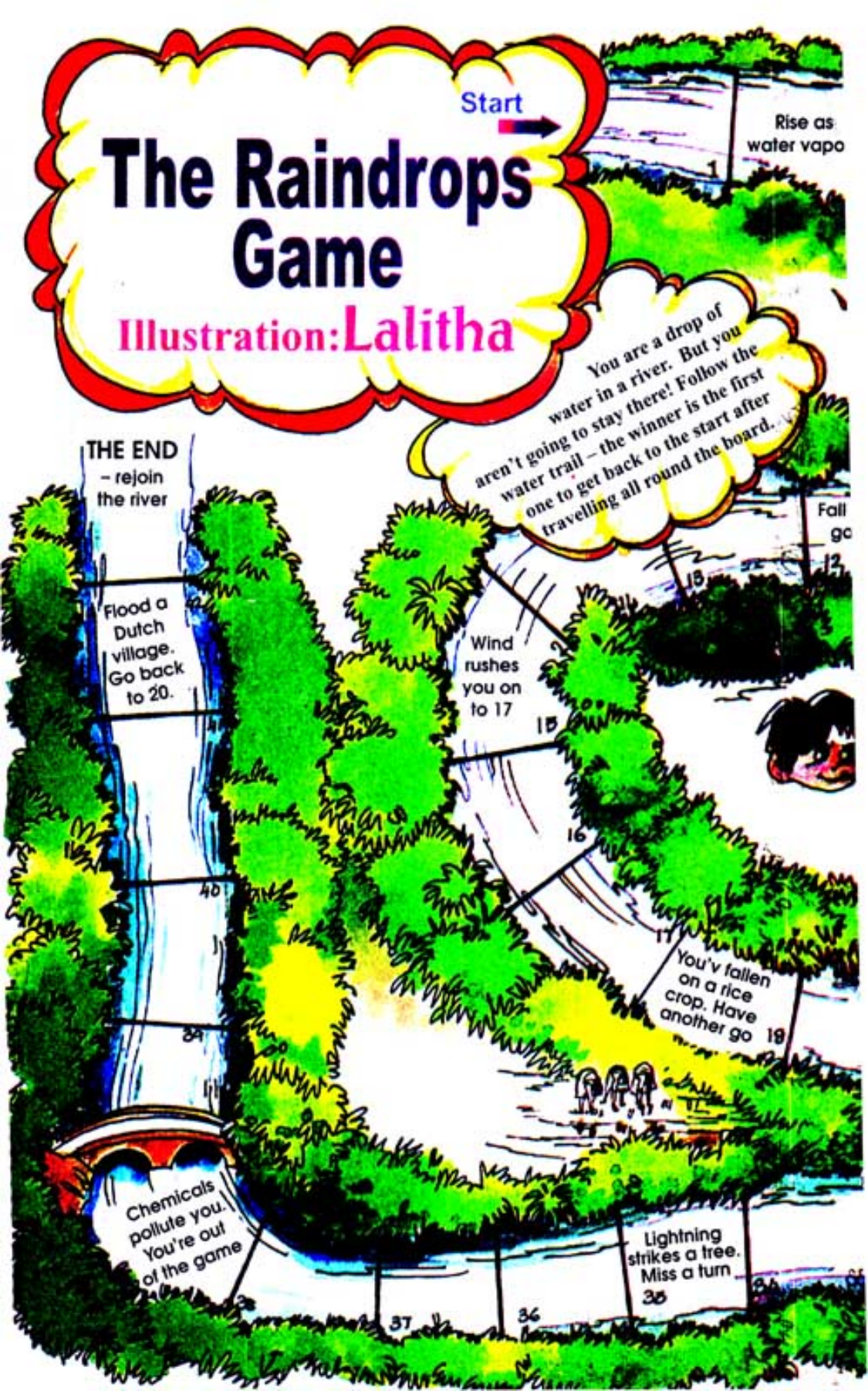
I knew I had learnt something that day. Heroes are not made nor are they born. Every kid born is a hero. A hero unto himself.

"Maybe next year, I'll be the hero", I said to Neha, as I walked out into the evening.

- Narayan Perumal, Mumbai.

The Raindrops Game

Illustration: Lalitha



This game is both enjoyable and educative! Get together and have fun while you learn! All you need is a die and as many counters as there are children!
Air warms up
Cool down and join a cloud Go to 6
Rain starts. Miss a turn.
Have another go to move off cloud
End a drought! Go to 41
Fall into cavern. Go back to 3
Save a desert crop. Go to 40
Snow Fall.– Children have fun. Go to 32

ABOLISH HOMEWORK!

As the child comes back from school, he keeps his bag down and immediately starts doing homework. The child who is given a lot of homework :

a) does not get enough time to learn the chapters thoroughly.

b) does not get time to play.

c) does not get enough sleep at night due to being over worked.

d) does not get time to exercise in order to keep his body fit and

e) does not get much time to watch T.V. to enable him improve his general knowledge.

Today, in many schools, homework is given in large numbers and in almost every subject. Keeping the above mentioned points in mind, I think that homework should be totally axed.

- Shaleen Kumar, Std. X,
Kendriya Vidyalaya, Mumbai.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Large - scale unemployment is no less than a curse. Its consequences are damaging to society as well as to the individual. It takes away not only the pleasures or comforts of life; but also the one thing most needed for life, that is, hope. It is difficult for an unemployed person to feel any obligation towards society and this results in indifference, if not hatred. Such a society can have little hope of progress or even survival for long.

- D. Keerthi, Std.VIII,
Defence Labs School, Hyderabad.

FUSION REACTIONS

I agree that nuclear energy is both helpful and hazardous to human life, (March 2002 issue). But to say that its dangers outnumber its uses is absolutely wrong. Nuclear energy can replace all our conventional sources of energy and provide an environment friendly resource. Eminent scientists of Indian and Foreign origin are toiling for hours in research labs to invent techniques for safer and efficient use of nuclear energy. The nuclear energy produced from FISSION

reactions, results in generation of hazardous nuclear wastes. However, FUSION reactions produce more energy and no waste products. But, these reactions can only take place at very high temperatures. Scientists are constantly trying to invent reactors in which controlled nuclear fusion reactions could be utilized to generate electricity and heat to replace our present day polluting energy sources.

- P.R. Arun, Std.XII, Christ Nagar School, Trivandrum, Kerala.

E-mail Vs Post

Over the past few years the increased use of e-mail has resulted in a decrease in the use of 'post'. As a result, stamps are being produced in quite a small number and hence there are many problems for philatelists. If this continues, the world's widest and most interesting hobby can vanish. Should e-mail be banned?

- K. Badrinath, Std. X, Sainikpuri HS, Secunderabad.

RELIGION

All religions think that their God is the greatest. But God is one. So why fight unto death. Let us stand together as one and learn to respect unity.

- D. Suryasri, Std. II, Holy Angels, Chennai.

EDUCATION

Education plays a crucial role in the development of a nation. But today, the increase in unemployed youth, clearly indicates that there are certain defects in the educational system.

* Today's academic tests are completely memory oriented and demands no effective thinking.

* Educational facilities have not yet reached the remote areas, where many talents remain dormant.

* Today's education policy is merely based on academic results and no emphasis is given to teaching of love, respect, sacrifice, patriotism and other such moral values.

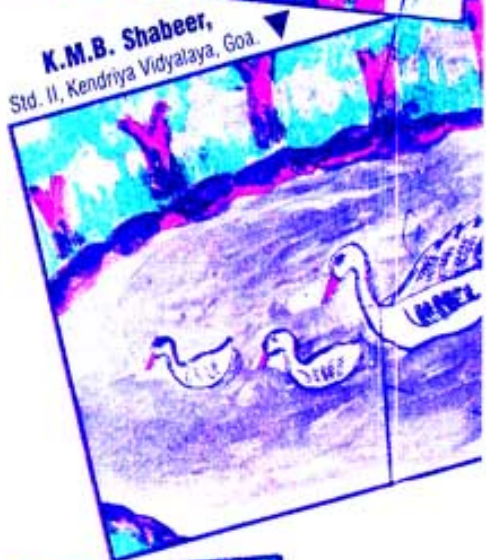
If these defects are rectified, then we can look forward to a new and prosperous country.

- S. Anu Lekha, B.Sc., N.S.S. College, Trivandrum.

COLOURFUL Creations

Surya Harikrishnan,
Std. UKG, Sindhi Public School, Bangalore.

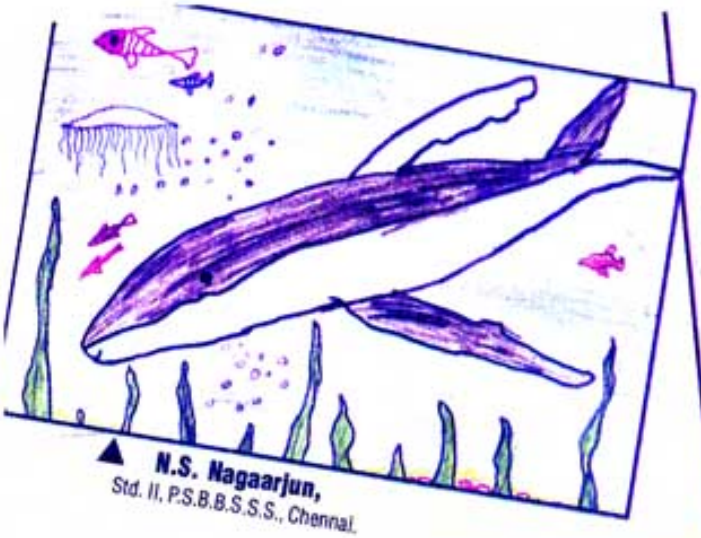
G. Sushilvasan,
Std. I, DAV Boys School, Chennai.



K.M.B. Shabeer,
Std. II, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Goa.

Swayam,
Std.I, Golden Gates M.H.S.S., Salem.

Krupa Y. Rajgor,
Std. II, Sahjanand School, Ahmedabad.



▲ **N.S. Nagaarjun,**
Std. II, P.S.B.B.S.S.S., Chennai.

D. Sindu, ▲
Std. III, Sri Gopal Naidu Children School, Coimbatore.

art gallery

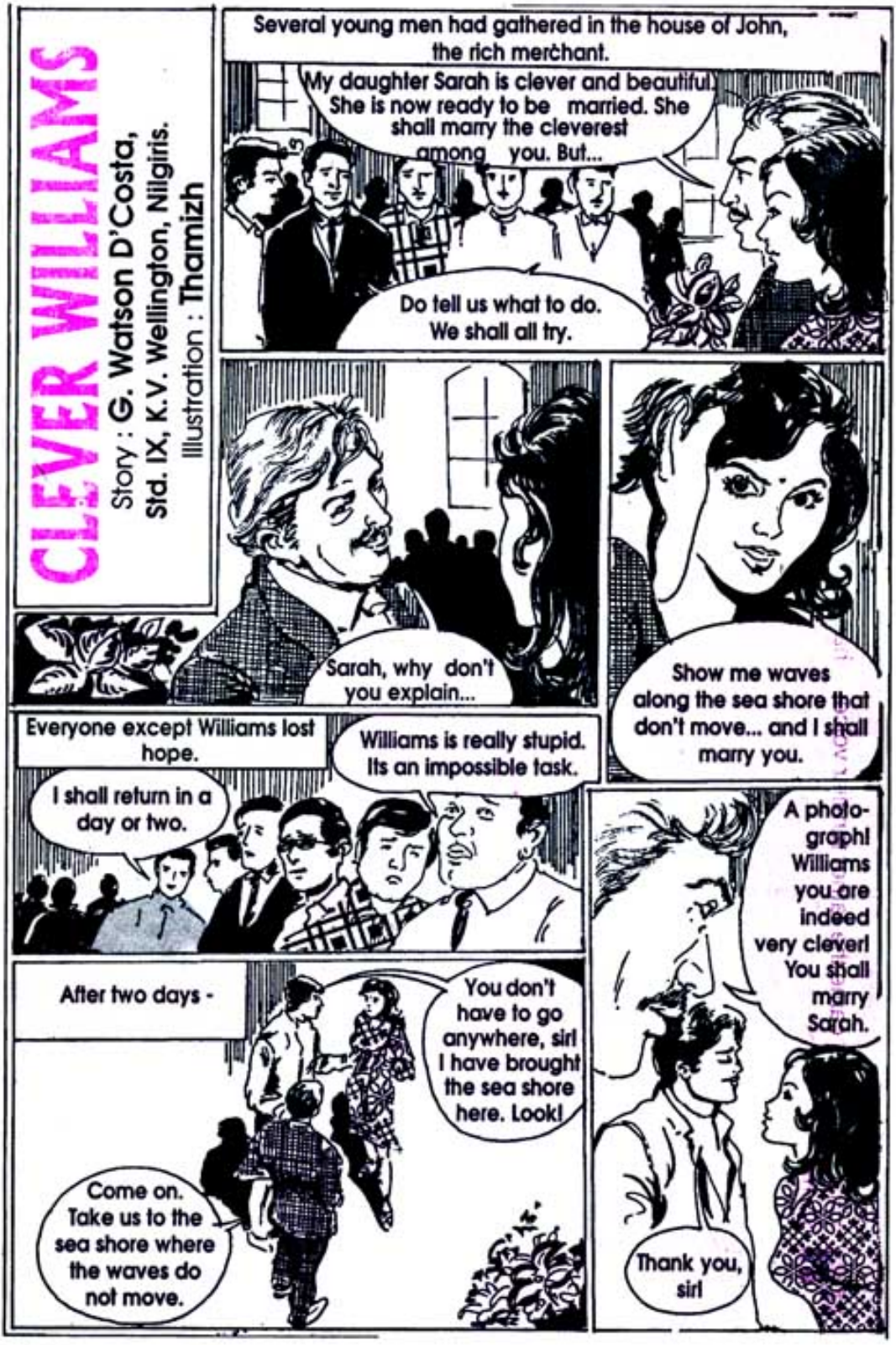
▲ **Ranjani Srinivasan,**
Std. III, National Public School, Chennai.

S. Sooryaprakash, ▲
Std. III, DAV Matric HSS, Chennai.

◀ **Anjana Subramanian,**
Std. III, Cambridge School, Noida.

CLEVER WILLIAMS

Story : G. Watson D'Costa,
Std. IX, K.V. Wellington, Nilgiris.
Illustration : Thamizh



Remembering GRANDPA

"Arvind, Wake up!" came the rather familiar voice. "Come, let us play carroms." I woke up with a start. Now sleep evaded me. How did Grandpa come back again, I said to myself, and sat pondering.

During the day, I had been cleaning the cassette shelves. While working, I was listening to some of Grandpa's favourite music. On several occasions, we had done the cleaning up together. In fact, Grandpa used to get the two of us-Nitu and me to complete the cleaning in a 'Tom Sawyer' kind of way. A strict disciplinarian, a well read and a meticulous person, he was loving and kind in his own way. Often, he would play carroms, dice and card games with us, as old age had restricted his movements to staying indoors at all times. He taught us several Sanskrit slokas, and narrated anecdotes from epics.

Grandpa had his bouts of annoyance too. When we cluttered things around the house, or yelled while in the company of our friends, he would not stand it. He would express his anger by non-cooperation. He would not talk to us until we apologized and promised to behave in future.

Grandpa stayed with us for only five years before his demise, as we were in a distant place prior to that. I vividly recall that Friday night. Grandpa completed his frugal dinner and was seated on his bed in a reclining posture. Suddenly, he told Pa that he was feeling tired, and would like to rest. Pa lay him on his lap, little realizing that this would be the old man's eternal sleep!

Although Grandpa is not with us today, we still reminisce with nostalgia the good times we've had, and try hard to put into practice whatever he taught us.

- R. Aravind, Std.VII,
Bala Vidya Mandir, Chennai - 20.

2. The Story Of Dona Paula

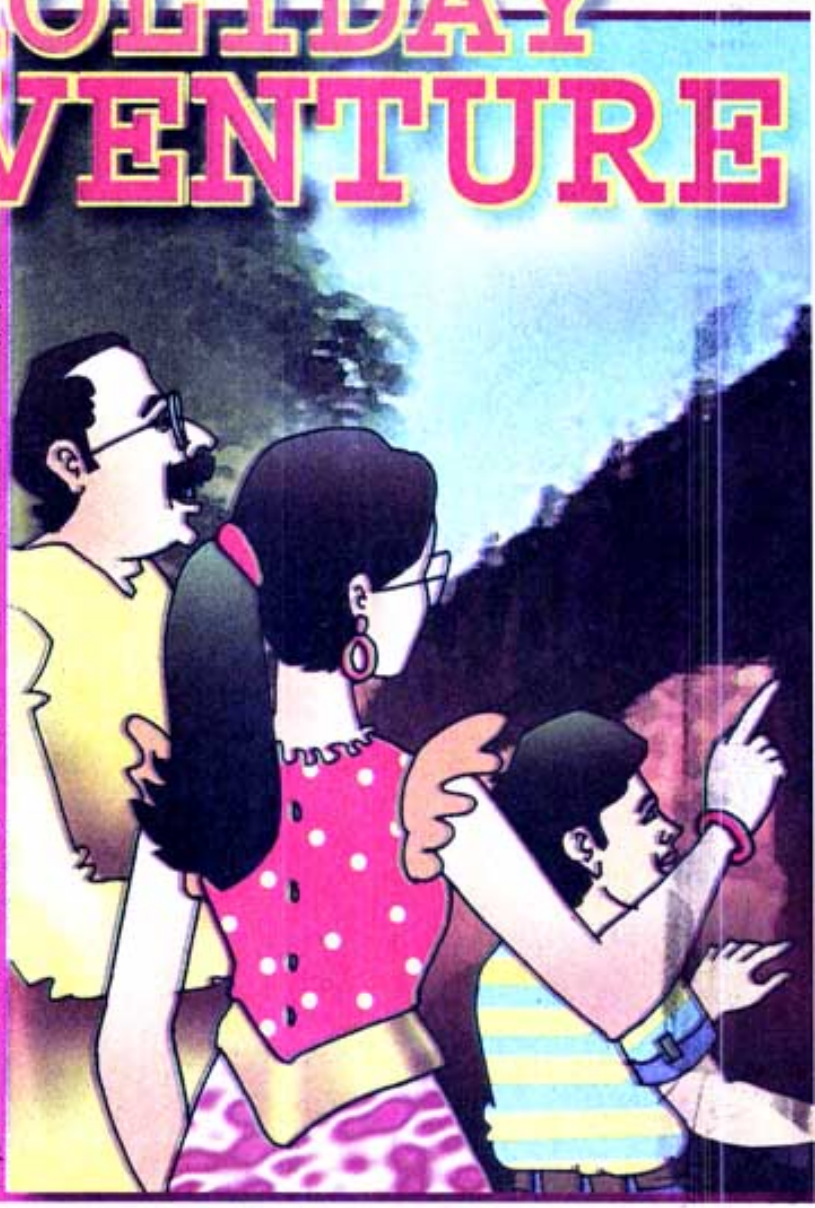
"Are all of you ready?"

"Yes, Thatha," came back a chorus of voices.

"We are ready," said Udita.

"And steady," said Kamala mischievously smiling, and whenever she did, her dimples deepened and made her look charming.

A HOLIDAY ADVENTURE



"And go", shouted Leela, not to be left out of the banter.

So Thatha, Patti, and the five grandchildren got into a station wagon hired for the day.

"Well today is a day for sight seeing," said Thatha.

"Where or what is sight seeing?" asked little Leela.

"Oh, it's going to various places and seeing them," said Kamala.

"I hope it won't be boring. I would much rather play in the sea," said Leela.

Their grandfather had planned to show them the church of Bom Jesus and the mansion where Dona Paula had stayed.

It was a long drive but the children settled down comfortably. After a while although not much time had elapsed, Leela asked, "Isn't there anything to munch?" Patti of course had brought along lots of goodies to eat, their favourite being chocolate fudge.

RADHA PADMANABHAN

At last they reached the church. Streams of tourists were going in. Some of them were foreigners. People posed here and there and got themselves photographed by friends and relatives.

"What's special about this church that it has so many people?" asked Udita.

"People come to see the coffin with the body of St. Xavier," said Thatha. "Therefore the basilica of Bom Jesus is famous," and before he could continue little Leela asked , "What is a bas...basa..."

"It's a church," said Vinaya who often seemed to know the answers to difficult questions. She was a voracious reader and sometimes behaved like a walking dictionary.

Thatha ignored all their comments. "The great thing about this church is," he said, " that although St.Xavier died more than four hundred years ago, his body which you will see has not fully decomposed or crumbled to dust. People come from all over the world to see this wonder. Once in about ten years the toe is exposed. The last time it was exposed was in 1994 or so but they have decided not to expose it any more."

"What's so great about that?" Vinaya asked. "The mummies of Egypt have survived much, much longer". Vinaya had become very interested in Egypt ever since she did a project on the country, and had been marked excellent.

"It is said that the body was not treated or embalmed," explained Thatha ,"as the Egyptian mummies were. Years after he had died, St. Xavier's body was exhumed from a foreign country. They found fresh blood oozing out .The Pope at once consecrated him as a saint. He was supposed to have performed many miracles in his life-time."

They listened in awe. The church was magnificent. To the right side of the church they could see the silver casket in which lay the body of St. Xavier. Photographs of various parts of the body were displayed on a wall of the church. They went round the church and returned in silence lost in thought.

"And now to Dona Paula," said the children's grandfather.

They drove on to another part of Goa. The road was not straight but curved gently ahead. It was a beautiful drive with greenery on either side of the road. Even the soil was red in colour. It suddenly became cooler and before they knew it, there was a shower of rain.

As Vinaya drank in the beauty of the scenery two lines of poetry that her teacher had read out in class and which aptly described the beauty of what she saw, eluded her. What were they? Suddenly she blurted out "Red Earth and pouring rain". It was a beautiful metaphor describing the meeting of lovers taken from a translation of Sangam poetry.

"The story of Dona Paula is a love story and a tragic one," said Thatha. Strange, this statement seemed to have some connection with the line of poetry that she had recalled, thought vinaya.

The others shouted in unison "Tell us, tell us, tell us."

"Years ago the Portuguese ruled Goa just like the British ruled us," said Thatha. "Dona Paula de Menzes was a young Portuguese girl, the daughter of the Viceroy. She fell in love with a fisherman called Gasper Diaz. She was of course refused permission to marry, and instead was locked up. She knew that she would be locked up for the rest of her life so she threw herself from the cliff and jumped to death into the deep waters below. Dona Paula is supposed to be seen emerging from the moonlit wa-

ters wearing a pearl necklace every anniversary of her death. Or so the story tellers narrate."

When they reached the Dona Paula beach, they looked at the cliff from where Dona Paula had thrown herself. Vinaya was lost in thought, moved by the story she had just heard, but the attention of the other children was drawn to the water sports on the Dona Paula beach .

The water scooter rides were the most thrilling. Only one person could be accommodated in one scooter .The driver sat behind urging the person at the wheel to go faster and faster.

"Don't be afraid .You can do it", he encouraged. And the person at the wheel pressed the accelerator and the boat cut through the water at very high speed almost veering to one side. It was thrilling. Little did the children realize that it was the driver who drove and controlled the speed, and that the wheel and accelerator they were using were only dummies! It was only when they left the boat that they realized that it was the driver who had driven the boat and not themselves. Everyone had a second and a third chance until Thatha firmly refused any more rides.

He then took them to a restaurant and told them to eat their fill as there would be no dinner for them at home. They were hungry anyway and ordered their favourite dishes.

Vinaya suddenly became aware of someone looking at Thatha and all of them. It was the man she saw at the cliff.

"Look, look Vikram," whispered Vinaya into Vikram's ears. "It's that man again."

"What man?" asked Vikram.

"The man near the cliff I told you about?"

"Where, where?" asked Vikram looking round.

"There, near the counter. He is pretending to read a newspaper but he is really looking at us."

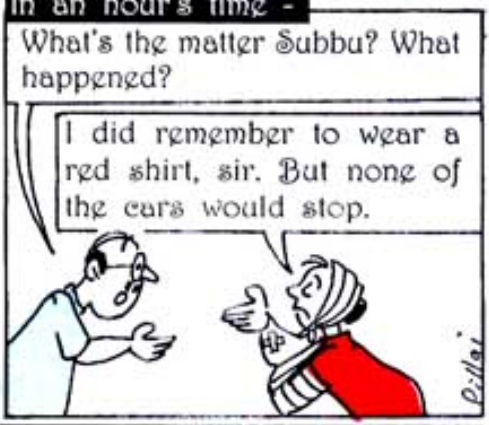
"Oh, he must be just another tourist who happened to be near the cliff. You read mystery or romance into little incidents. That's because you are always reading such books," said Vikram.

Vinaya was silent but was not convinced by Vikram's explanation. Who was this man? Why was he staring at them?

To be continued...

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

DANGER!



M.A. Uttara, Std. VIII,
TVS Lakshmi, Madurai

Forest Officer : Madam! Don't go into the forest. There's a man eater roaming around...

Lady : But, I'm only a woman!

- V. Vivek, Std. VIII,
Sainik School, Coimbatore.

Teacher : Students.... order... order!!

Students : Ice Cream..!!

- S.Muthukumar, Redhills.

John : I spent three years shooting tigers in Brazil.

Raghu : But there are no tigers in Brazil.

John : Ofcourse not, I shot all of them!

- R.V. Selvakumar, Age 13,
Sainik School, Erode.

The Fluorescent YOYO

The train moved on. Mr. and Mrs. Sharma with their ten year old daughter, Mini were on their way to Bangalore. Mini was very excited as this was the first time she was travelling by train.

During the course of the journey, a man came selling toys in the train. He invited Mini's attention by showing her a fluorescent yoyo.

"Mummy!! Please can I buy it? It is soooo cute!!

Much to her disappointment, her mother refused, saying that it was a waste of money to buy it. Mini tried to ask her father, but the same reply was given to her.

"Please! Please!" Mini begged. "It is fluorescent. It can even be seen in the dark"

Finally after a lot of pleading from Mini, her parents gave in. Mini's eyes sparked with delight as the fluorescent yoyo was given to her.

Mini had a week of fun at Bangalore, visiting places. On the last day they planned to go for a movie.

"I am hungry", complained Mini when it was interval at the movie.

"Here take this ten rupees and get yourself something to eat" said Mr. Sharma.

Mini took it and went to the popcorn stall. Suddenly, the power went off. Mr. and Mrs. Sharma's heart stopped as Mini was alone in the dark. They rushed to the snack stall which was pitch dark. "Mini!! Mini!!" They shouted running here and there, in between the crowd. Meanwhile Mini was also shouting for her parents.

Suddenly Mini realized that the fluorescent yoyo was in her pocket. She took it out and used it in such a way that it went upwards, hoping that her parents would spot it. Luckily they spotted it and rushed towards the yoyo.

"Mini is that you?" they asked. When she replied, they hugged her. "Oh Mini!! Thank God you are safe." The lights came back. Everyone returned to the theatre.

On their way back home Mini's parents were full of praise for her. "What a clever idea!" they said.

"Aren't you glad I bought it?" asked Mini. You bet they were!

- Samyukta Sridhar, Std. XII, Church Park, Chennai - 18.

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RINK

This is a very simple game for 2 to 4 players.

Things needed :

A square piece of cardboard, six small round tokens (coat or shirt buttons are fine), paper and pen to note down the scores.

How to play :

- Divide the cardboard into eight areas and mark the points on each area as shown in the figure (you may differentiate the areas by painting them in different colours).
- The cardboard is placed on the floor
- The first player stands outside the rink area at a marked distance and tosses the tokens one by one into the play area.
- When all the six tokens are thus tossed, the player gets as many points as marked on the area into which the tokens land. His total is then calculated by adding up the points. The player does not get any point if the tokens fall outside the rink area or on the line and surely he cannot have another turn!

5	50
10	20
20	10
50	5

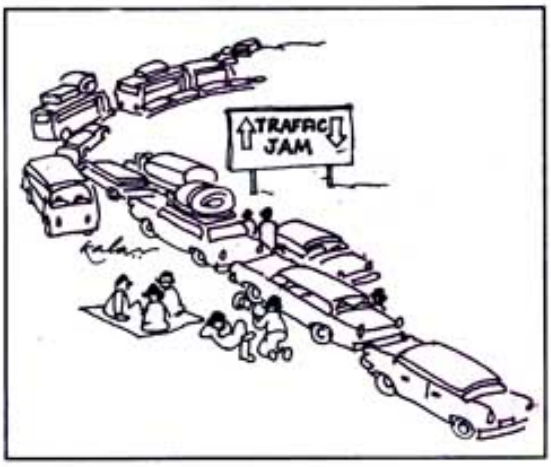
- The other players then get their turn one by one and their individual scores are added. The player with the maximum score is the winner.

- Iccha Sethi,
Std VIII, PSBB, Chennai.

CAN YOU IMAGINE?

How long does a traffic jam stretch? 1 Km? 2Kms? May be 5 Kms? The longest ever traffic jam reported was that on Feb 16 1980 which stretched northwards from Lyon 176 Kms towards Paris, France. Another huge traffic jam was reported for 11½ million cars crawling bumper to bumper over the East-West German border on April 12, 1980.

– Veena,
New Delhi.



THE STORY OF THE KITE

is an interesting one. Some say that it was a Greek called Archytas, who first invented the kite in the 4th century B.C. But kites were probably flown much earlier in India, China and other countries in the east.

In China, kites were included in many festivals. The ninth day of the ninth month of the year was dedicated to a solemn Feast of High Flight when the skies were dotted with kites of all shapes and sizes.

Some of these kites were in the shapes of fish, buttterflies, frogs and birds. They also had 'kite fights' in which kites with bits of glass on them were used to cut the strings of kites flown by their rivals.

In the west, kites were used for research work. In 1752, Benjamin Franklin flew a silk kite in a thunder storm and proved that lightning and electricity are inter-related.

Even before Franklin, kites had been flown, with thermometers attached to them to find out the temperature of the clouds.

By the end of the 19th century, kites were used by weather experts. Some of these kites were sent beyond the height of 4 miles and to reach such altitudes, more than one kite was used.

- Rajendra Prasad, Std. VIII,
Sainik School, Delhi

I. WHEN INDEPENDENCE?

1 - e, 2 - d, 3 - f, 4 - c, 5 - b, 6-a.

II. HUSBANDS AND WIVES

1. Nala - Damayanti 2. Dhritarashtra - Gandhari 3. Indra - Indrani 4. King Pandu - Kunti 5. Agastya - Lopamudra 6. Bharata - Mandavi 7. Ravana - Mandodari 8. Shiva - Parvati 9. Satyavan - Savitri 10. Lakshmana - Urmila

III. CAN YOU?

a. 10 birds and 20 beasts

b.

1	2	3	
10			4
9			5
	8	7	6

c. ~~XIII~~ = VIII

IV. QUIZ TIME

1. John Adams 2. Diet 3. Stravinsky 4. Tulsidas 5. The Curzon Line

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES ON PAGES 18 & 19

V. a)

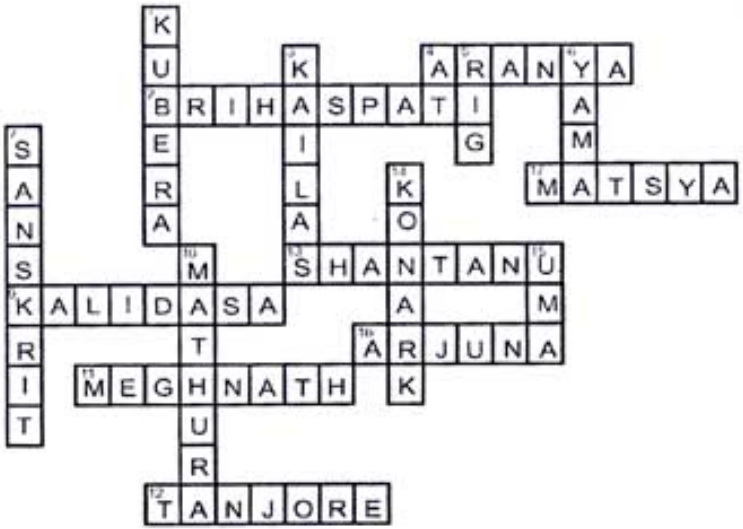
	7	
3	1	4
5	8	6
	2	

	7	
4	1	3
6	8	5
	2	

There may be other ways to do it. Why don't you try?

b)

VI. MYTH HUNT



HAIR CARE

• Hari, Chennai-94.

? How can I overcome dandruff and its recurrence?

! Dandruff is a kind of skin disease in which scales of the dead skin of the scalp are shed along with the dried secretion of the sebaceous glands-glands that are closely associated with the hair follicles. They secrete an oily substance which has an immense effect in keeping the skin and hair healthy. If the discharge of scales is more, intense itching and fall of hair may accompany the condition. The best treatment for dandruff is to wash your hair regularly with a medicated shampoo. Numerous medicated shampoos are available in the market for the treatment of dandruff but most of them cause irreparable damage to hair follicles because of the synthetic ingredients they contain. For a permanent cure or to avoid recurrence, you can adopt the following:

1. You should keep the hair and the scalp clean so as to minimise the accumulation of dead cells.

2. Brush your hair daily to improve blood circulation and remove any flakiness. A brush, which has bristles with rounded tips, is best since it is less likely to scratch or tear and split the hair.

3. Massage the scalp thoroughly everyday.

4. Wash hair regularly with mild medicated shampoo. Using anti-fungal agents as per doctor's advice may help.

5. Avoid whole milk, butter, cream, eggs, cheese, chocolate and non-vegetarian items. Be on a low fat diet.

• K. Vishnu Vardhan, Tirupati.

? What is the first aid to be given if a snake bites a person?

! The area of snakebite should be washed thoroughly with soap and water. We can tie a band 10 cms above the wound. The band should be loose enough to slip a finger under it. Release

the band for 90 seconds every 10 minutes to prevent damage from lack of circulation. Most poisonous snakebites cause deep burning pain along with swelling and numbness over the wound. Call a doctor immediately or take the victim to a hospital for medical attention. The victim must be kept as still and quiet as possible because any active movement will help the poison to spread throughout the body. Place the victim at an angle so that the bite is below the level of the heart. This may help to delay the body's absorption of the poison.

• S. Aarthi, Trivandrum.

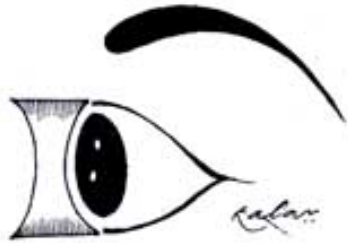
? Why do we sneeze when we inhale dust?

! Sneezing is the protective act to expel the irritant or foreign body which may enter our respiratory tract through the nostrils. Dust allergy is one of the commonest causes for sneezing. Even a small allergic dust particle that enters our nose can irritate the nasal epithelium and cause sneezing to send out the dust. It is the natural protective reflex of our body's defence mechanism.

• N. Venkatesh, Bangalore-54.

? How is short-sight caused? How can it be cured?

! In January – 2002 Gokulam, I have detailed how our eyes see objects. Do you remember, Venkatesh? O.K. Now we can see how short-sightedness (myopia) is caused. In a normal eye the light rays from infinity are brought to a focus on the retina and thus an image is formed on it and the brain tells us what we see. In the short-sighted eye, the light rays are brought to a focus in front of the retina because the eye ball is too long or because the converging power of the cornea or lens is too great. Symptoms of myopia are re-



duced visual acuteness for the distant objects but near objects are seen clearly. To achieve clear vision for distant objects, the rays of light must be diverged by a concave lens so that the light rays are focused on the retina. That is why shortsighted people wear concave lens glasses. More recently a special "excimer laser treatment" is used on these people to avoid wearing glasses ●

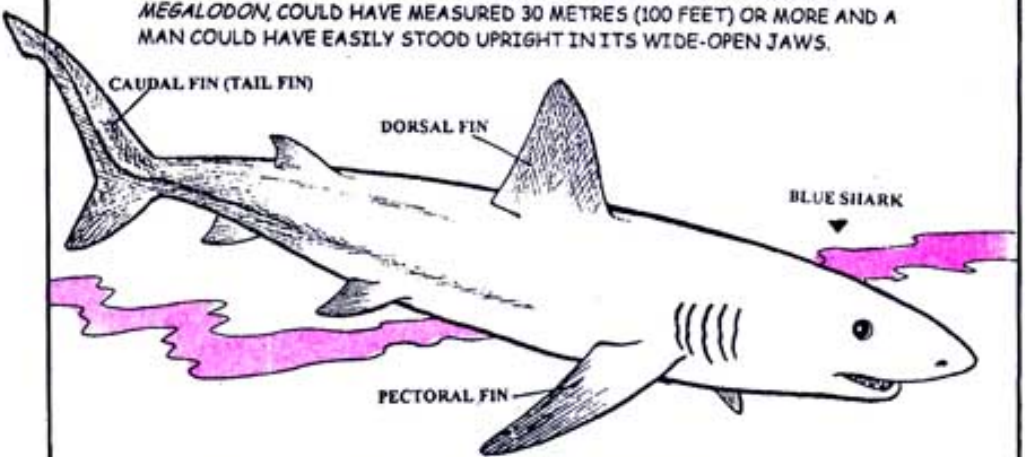
Dr. G.GANESAN,
Rajapalayam.

SHARKS

TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS : PRASAD IYER

SHARKS ORIGINATED ON EARTH SOME 400 MILLION YEARS AGO AND THEY BELONG TO THE ORDER OF FISHES CALLED *SELACHII*. THE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE FISHES THAT BELONG TO THIS ORDER IS THAT THEIR SKELETONS ARE MADE OF CARTILAGE AND NOT BONE. SINCE CARTILAGE IS LIGHTER AND MORE ELASTIC THAN BONE, SHARKS' BODIES ARE EXTREMELY FLEXIBLE ENABLING THEM TO TWIST AND TURN WHILE CHASING AFTER PREY.

THERE ARE SOME 350 DIFFERENT SPECIES OF SHARKS RANGING IN SIZE FROM 15CM (THE PYGMY SHARK) TO 14 METRES (THE WHALE SHARK). SOME PREHISTORIC SPECIES OF SHARKS, NOW EXTINCT, WERE EVEN LONGER. IT IS THOUGHT THAT ONE SUCH SHARK, THE *CARCHAROCLES MEGALODON*, COULD HAVE MEASURED 30 METRES (100 FEET) OR MORE AND A MAN COULD HAVE EASILY STOOD UPRIGHT IN ITS WIDE-OPEN JAWS.



UNLIKE BONY FISHES, THE SKIN OF A SHARK IS COVERED BY SMALL TOOTH-LIKE STRUCTURES CALLED *DENTICLES* OR *PLACOID SCALES*. THESE DENTICLES MAKE THE SHARK'S SKIN FEEL LIKE SANDPAPER AND, IN FACT, SHARK SKIN WAS ONCE COMMONLY USED AS SANDPAPER.

PYGMY SHARK

DIFFERENT SPECIES OF SHARKS HAVE DIFFERENT TYPES OF TEETH IDEALLY SUITED TO THEIR PARTICULAR DIET.

SANDTIGER SHARK

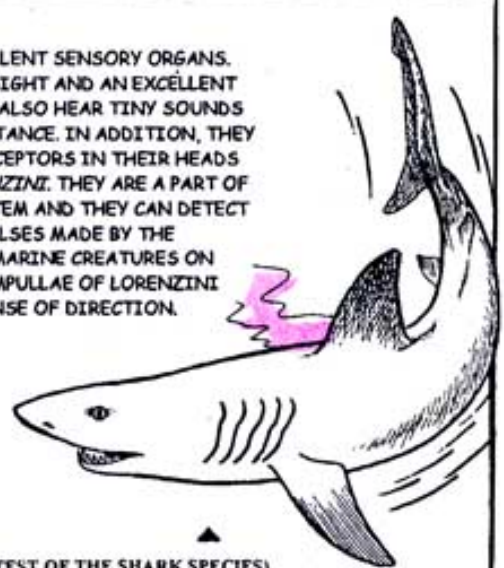
THUS SHARKS THAT FEED ON SEALS OR LARGE FISH HAVE ROWS OF LONG TRIANGULAR TEETH SOMETIMES WITH RAZOR-SHARP EDGES TO CUT THROUGH THE FLESH OF PREY.

PORT JACKSON SHARK ▶

ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME BOTTOM-DWELLING SHARKS LIKE THE *PORT JACKSON SHARK* FEED MOSTLY ON SEA URCHINS, SEA SNAILS OR SMALL CRABS. THUS THEY HAVE SMALL, FLAT TEETH FOR CRUSHING THEIR PREY.

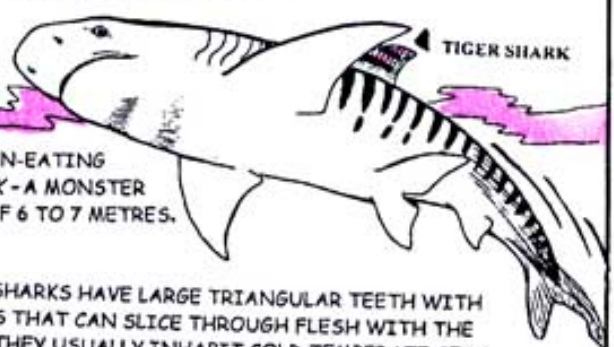
SHARKS RE-GROW LOST TEETH AND IT IS ESTIMATED THAT IF A SHARK LIVES OUT ITS FULL LIFE-SPAN, IT MAY GROW AND RE-GROW AS MANY AS 30,000 TEETH!

MOST SHARKS HAVE EXCELLENT SENSORY ORGANS. THEY HAVE VERY GOOD EYESIGHT AND AN EXCELLENT SENSE OF SMELL. THEY CAN ALSO HEAR TINY SOUNDS FROM A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE. IN ADDITION, THEY HAVE SMALL ELECTRICAL RECEPTORS IN THEIR HEADS CALLED *AMPULLAE OF LORENZINI*. THEY ARE A PART OF THE SHARK'S NERVOUS SYSTEM AND THEY CAN DETECT THE TINY ELECTRICAL IMPULSES MADE BY THE MUSCLES OF THE VARIOUS MARINE CREATURES ON WHOM THEY FEED. THESE AMPULLAE OF LORENZINI ALSO GIVE THE SHARK A SENSE OF DIRECTION.



MAKO SHARK (THE FASTEST OF THE SHARK SPECIES)

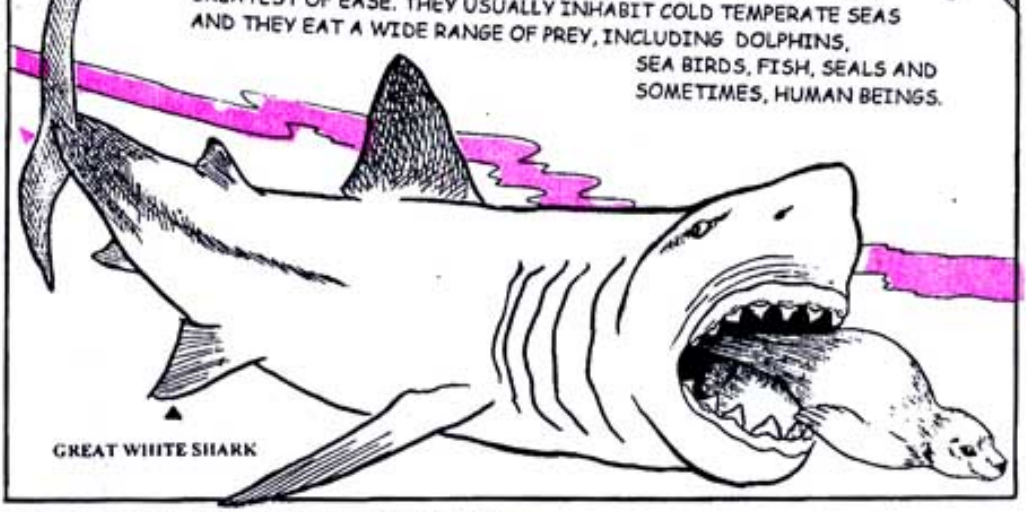
PEOPLE OFTEN PERCEIVE SHARKS AS VORACIOUS MAN-EATERS. AND THIS IS VERY TRUE OF THE *TIGER SHARK* - A LARGE SHARK THAT MAY REACH A LENGTH OF 4.5 METRES (15 FEET). THE TIGER SHARK IS SO CALLED BECAUSE OF THE STRIPED MARKINGS ON ITS SIDES. TIGER SHARKS ARE FIERCE PREDATORS AND HUMANS CAN ALSO BE A PART OF THEIR DIET. THEY ARE KNOWN TO SWALLOW EVEN INEDIBLE OBJECTS SUCH AS TIN CANS OR PIECES FROM RUBBER TYRES.



TIGER SHARK

BUT THE DEADLIEST OF THE MAN-EATING SPECIES IS THE *GREAT WHITE SHARK* - A MONSTER FISH THAT MAY ATTAIN A LENGTH OF 6 TO 7 METRES.

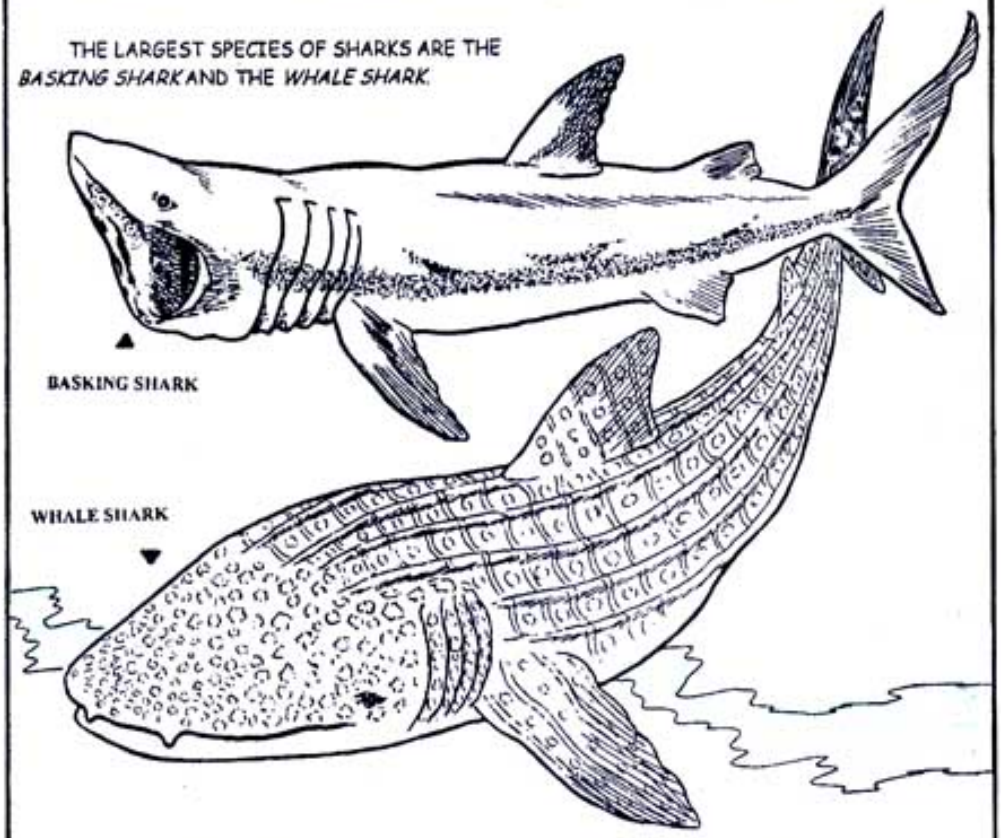
GREAT WHITE SHARKS HAVE LARGE TRIANGULAR TEETH WITH SHARP, ROUGH EDGES THAT CAN SLICE THROUGH FLESH WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE. THEY USUALLY INHABIT COLD TEMPERATE SEAS AND THEY EAT A WIDE RANGE OF PREY, INCLUDING DOLPHINS, SEA BIRDS, FISH, SEALS AND SOMETIMES, HUMAN BEINGS.



GREAT WHITE SHARK

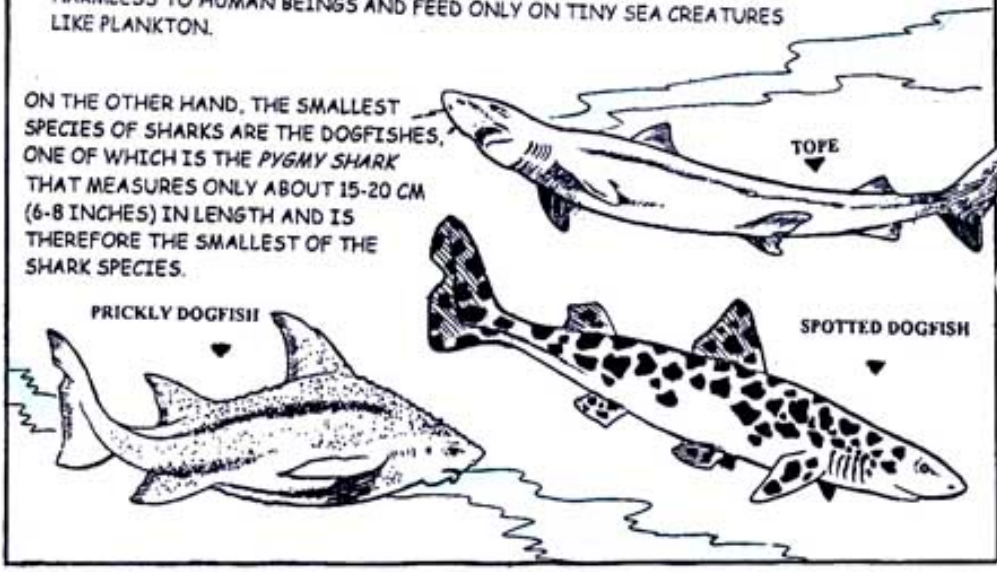
*LORENZINI WAS THE NAME OF THE SCIENTIST WHO DISCOVERED THE SHARKS' ELECTRICAL RECEPTORS.

THE LARGEST SPECIES OF SHARKS ARE THE *BASKING SHARK* AND THE *WHALE SHARK*.



THE BASKING SHARK MAY ATTAIN A LENGTH OF 9 METRES (30 FEET) AND GETS ITS NAME FROM ITS HABIT OF SWIMMING NEAR THE SURFACE OF THE SEA WITH ITS MOUTH WIDE OPEN AS THOUGH BASKING IN THE SUNLIGHT. THE WHALE SHARK IS EVEN BIGGER THAN THE BASKING SHARK AND MAY REACH A LENGTH OF 13 OR 14 METRES (45 FEET) AND IS THUS THE LARGEST FISH IN THE WORLD. BOTH THESE SHARKS ARE ABSOLUTELY HARMLESS TO HUMAN BEINGS AND FEED ONLY ON TINY SEA CREATURES LIKE PLANKTON.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SMALLEST SPECIES OF SHARKS ARE THE DOGFISHES, ONE OF WHICH IS THE *PYGMY SHARK* THAT MEASURES ONLY ABOUT 15-20 CM (6-8 INCHES) IN LENGTH AND IS THEREFORE THE SMALLEST OF THE SHARK SPECIES.



MANY SPECIES OF SHARKS HAVE UNUSUALLY-SHAPED BODIES. ONE SUCH SHARK IS THE *HAMMERHEAD SHARK*.

IT IS EASY TO SEE HOW THIS SHARK GOT ITS NAME. THE HAMMERHEAD SHARK HAS A HAMMER-SHAPED SNOUT AND ITS EYES AND NOSTRILS ARE LOCATED AT EACH END OF THE HEAD. THERE ARE NINE SPECIES OF HAMMERHEADS AND THEY ALL LIVE NEAR THE COAST FEEDING ON A VARIED DIET OF FISH, OCTOPUSES AND CRABS. THE LARGEST HAMMERHEADS CAN REACH A LENGTH OF 5 METRES (16 FEET).

ANOTHER UNUSUALLY-SHAPED SHARK IS THE *THRESHER SHARK* WHICH HAS A TAIL FIN ALMOST AS LONG AS ITS BODY. THIS LONG TAIL IS VERY ADVANTAGEOUS TO THIS SHARK BECAUSE IT CAN LASH ABOUT TO AND FRO IN THE WATER IN ORDER TO ROUND UP THE SHOALS OF FISH ON WHICH IT FEEDS.

HAMMERHEAD SHARK

THRESHER SHARK

THE *FRILLED SHARK* HAS AN EEL-LIKE APPEARANCE AND IT HAS FRILLY GILL COVERINGS. *ANGEL SHARKS* AND *WOBBEGONGS* DWELL NEAR THE SEA BED AND HAVE FLATTENED BODIES. THEY BELONG TO THE GROUP KNOWN AS CARPET SHARKS BECAUSE THEIR BODIES RESEMBLE A CARPET. THEY FEED ON OCTOPUSES, CRABS, LOBSTERS AND FISH.

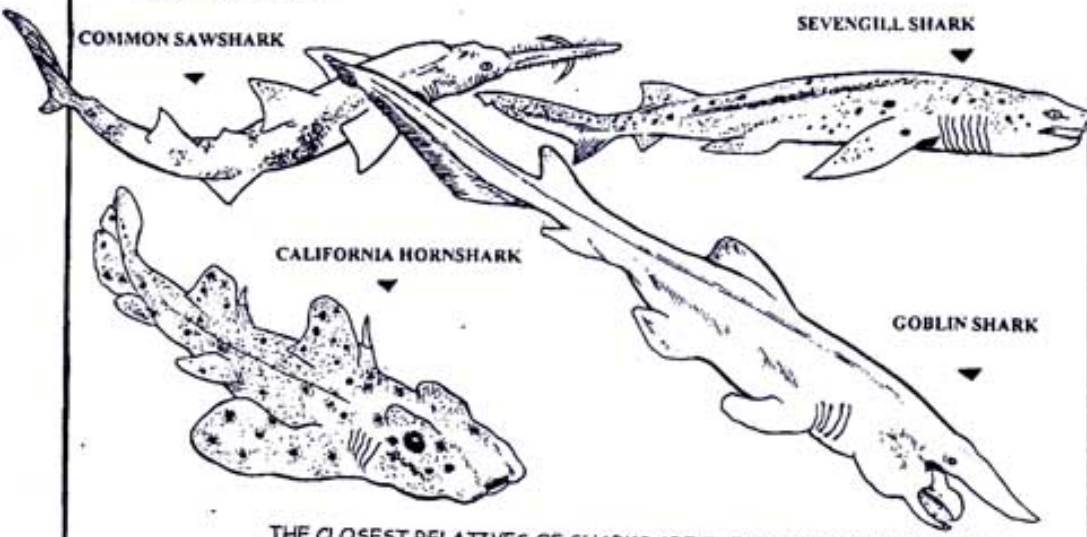
THE ANGEL SHARK GETS ITS NAME FROM THE SHAPE OF ITS PECTORAL FINS, WHICH LOOK LIKE WINGS, WHILE THE NAME "WOBBEGONG" IS PROBABLY DERIVED FROM AN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL WORD.

ORNATE WOBBEGONG

FRILLED SHARK

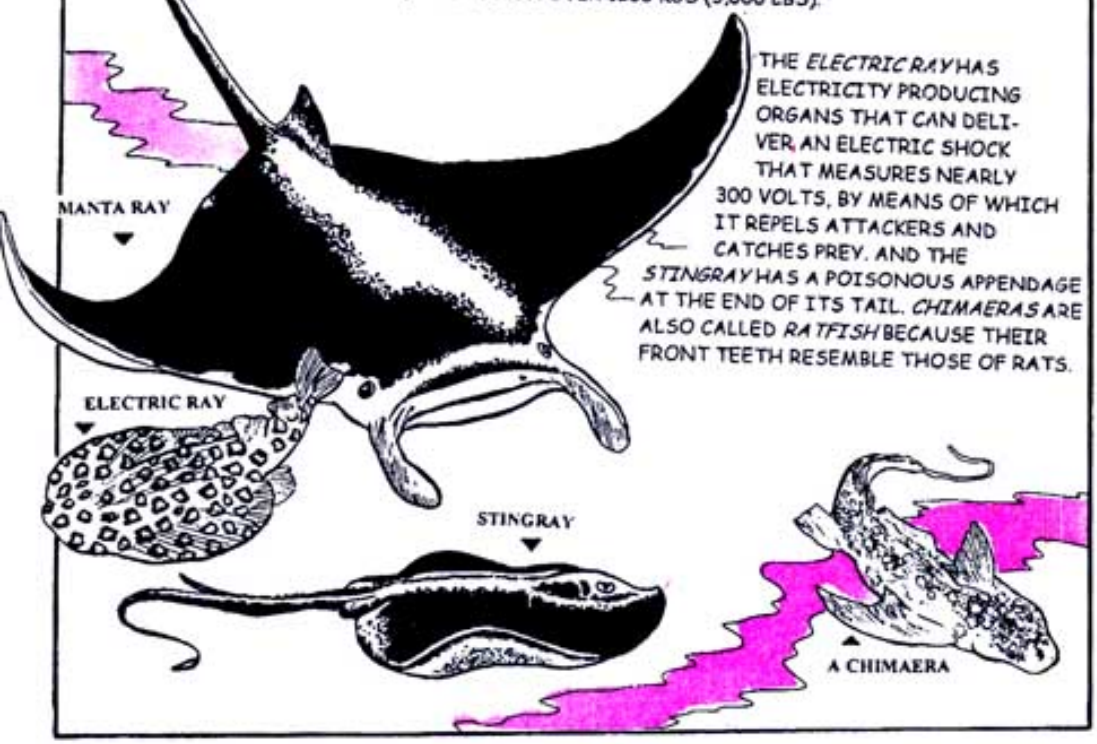
ANGEL SHARK

SAWSHARKS ARE SO CALLED BECAUSE OF THEIR SAW-LIKE SNOUTS. THE *SEVEN-GILL SHARK* HAS SEVEN SETS OF GILLS INSTEAD OF THE FIVE THAT MOST OTHER SHARKS HAVE. THE *CALIFORNIA HORNSHARK* HAS HORN-LIKE PROJECTIONS ON ITS BACK WHILE THE *GOBLIN SHARK*, WHICH MAY ATTAIN A LENGTH OF 3 METRES (10 FEET), HAS A DAGGER-LIKE SNOUT AND JAWS THAT CAN BE EXTENDED FOR CATCHING PREY LIKE SHRIMPS, SQUID AND SMALL FISH.



THE CLOSEST RELATIVES OF SHARKS ARE THE OTHER CARTILAGINOUS FISHES SUCH AS THE RAYS AND THE CHIMAERAS. THERE ARE ABOUT 470 SPECIES OF RAYS, THE LARGEST OF WHICH IS THE *MANTA RAY* - A HUGE BAT-LIKE FISH WHICH MAY HAVE A WIDTH OF 6 METRES (20 FEET) AND WEIGH OVER 1200 KGS (3,000 LBS).

THE *ELECTRIC RAY* HAS ELECTRICITY PRODUCING ORGANS THAT CAN DELIVER AN ELECTRIC SHOCK THAT MEASURES NEARLY 300 VOLTS, BY MEANS OF WHICH IT REPELS ATTACKERS AND CATCHES PREY. AND THE *STINGRAY* HAS A POISONOUS APPENDAGE AT THE END OF ITS TAIL. *CHIMAERAS* ARE ALSO CALLED *RATFISH* BECAUSE THEIR FRONT TEETH RESEMBLE THOSE OF RATS.



EXAM EXPERIENCES CONTEST RESULTS

There was as ever before, an over-whelming response from our young readers. There were all sorts of experiences - humourous, sad, exciting encouraging and thrilling.

Let us congratulate the winners!

History or Science

1st Prize Rs.100/-

It was the eve of my History exam. I prepared to my level best and marched with confidence to school the next day. On reaching the school, I was surprised to find my friends going through their science books instead of History. When I enquired, they said it was Science exam that day. I thought I had seen the time-table wrong and became very confused. I too began to read my Science text. Within a few minutes, I heard my friends chuckling from behind. Only then I realised that

it was 'April Fool's Day'. It was a tense but funny experience indeed!

- P. Uthara Priyadharshini, Std. IX, K.V. Air Force Station, Thane.

Lost and Regained

IInd Prize Rs.75/-

I really wanted to perform well in my Board exams but I fell sick just three months before my exams. The doctor said that one of the bones in my spinal column had

collapsed and that it would take nearly six months for me to get back to my normal routine. I was advised bed rest. Tears rolled down my cheeks when I thought how unlucky I was.

However I gathered courage and with the support extended by my teachers, principal and ofcourse my parents, I decided to face my exams, bravely.

My parents read aloud to me every day and I presented my answers orally at the exams while a scribe wrote the answers for me.

It was ten days of great pain-physical and mental. When the results

were announced. I came to know I had scored 80%. I learnt how much self-confidence can help us out.

-A.S. Harini, Std. XI, A.A.M.H.S.S., Chennai.

Forgotten!

IIIrd Prize Rs.50/-

During our Science exam, the teacher distributed the question papers to all the students, took the roll call and then just relaxed. We waited and waited for a few minutes looking at each other with surprised looks on our faces.

At the end of that few minutes of silence, we chorused "Ma'am, what do we do with only the question paper?"

Only then she realised that she had not given us the answer sheets. The whole class had a hearty laugh.

Although a bit embarrassed, the teacher hurriedly distributed the papers.

- D.Jerusha, Std. VIII, Vani Vidyalaya, Mumbai

Consolation prizes Rs.25/- each

A Near Miss

Our annual exams were to take place through two whole weeks. On the first Friday I came home after my exams,

thinking that there was no exam on Saturday (the next day). I began to watch my favourite programmes on television.

It was around 9 p.m. that my friend called to clear a doubt. Only on talking to him I realised my folly. After that, I studied and just managed to finish all the portions. If my friend had not called, I would have surely missed my exam on Saturday.

I realised my mistake of not having read the time-table properly.

- S. Ateen Pal, Std. VIII, St. John's Vestry H.S.S., Trichy.

At What Cost?

I was preparing for my English Board Exams till late in the night. Before going to bed, I asked my mother

to wake me up at 4 a.m. the next morning.

But when I woke up, I was petrified to see that the time was 8.30. I knew I had overslept and that I had only two more hours for the exam.

Much to my relief, my mother, came and told me that my friend Pratiksha had called to say that our English exam was postponed to after the last exam due to the bandh called by the Vishwa Hindu

Parishad (VHP). I felt relieved at that very instant but within seconds felt very unhappy that I got the extra time at the cost of many poor innocent lives.

Vineeta Venugopal, Std. X, Saraswati Vidyalaya, Nagpur.

CONTEST

GREATMEN; LITTLE INCIDENTS

Here's the next contest for you. All of us know the History of India's Freedom Struggle. Hundreds of great men have had a role to play in this story –big or small.

There are any number of anecdotes or incidents that have taken place in the lives of these great men that speak about the person. Some of these we have all heard or read. There are sure to be others which are not known to many of us. Write them down. It can be any incident - humour, tragic, wit... It could have taken place at any stage of their life - childhood, school, college or during the freedom movement.

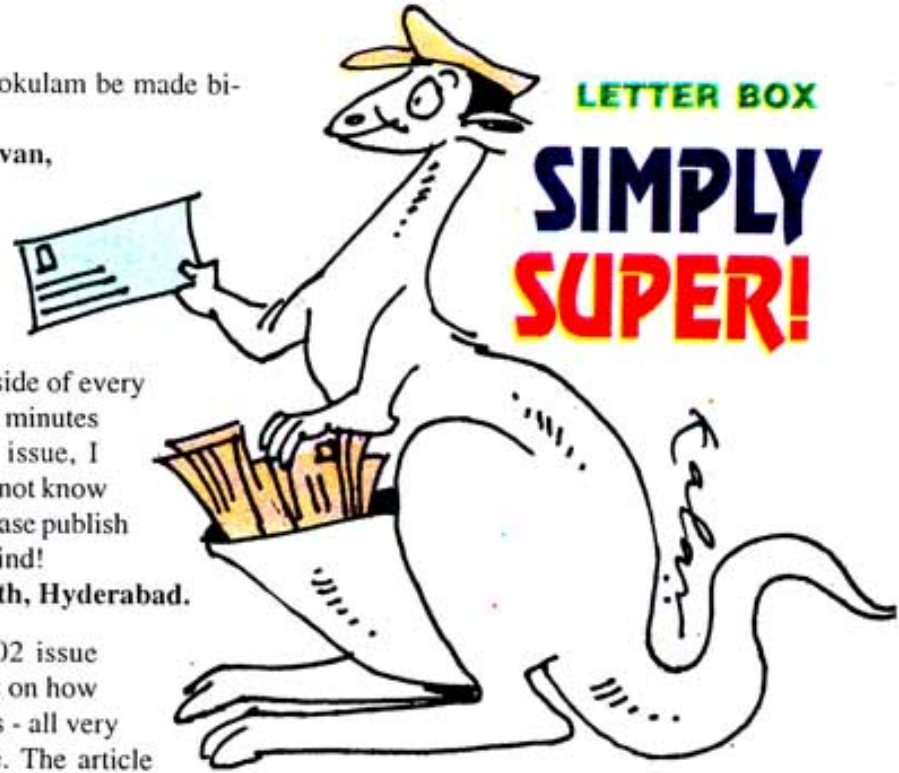
Remember

* this is for **school going children** only.
* give **details** of name, age, class, school and residential address.
* be brief **(10-15 sentences)**
* last date : **26.06.2002**
* mention **'greatmen; little incidents'** on the envelope.
* editor's decision is final.

Four entries will be selected. Selected entries will be published in the **August 2002** issue of your favourite magazine and the prize winners will receive a **Faber-Castell Geometry Box.**

LETTER BOX

SIMPLY SUPER!



✉ I got a lot of inspiration for drawing after reading Lalitha aunty's article. I have now made up my mind to give it a try.

- V.L. Thiripurasundari, Thiruvannamalai.

✉ I love you so much Gokulam. Without you my holidays would be boring and I would have felt like snoring! Its not only me who likes you, but even my mother, father and brother.

- Archana, Bangalore.

✉ All the features in the 'Holiday Special' issue were informative and useful. The insight on 'drawing and painting was very interactive and creative. I am sure it will be useful to all young budding artists.

- C.L. Annie, Trichy.

✉ The advice given by Dr. Parthasarathy (May 2002) on conditions peculiar to summer was very good. 'The art of story telling' reveals how fortunate you had been. My grandpa too has been telling me many stories. In keeping with the name of the magazine, the story 'Killing of Dhenukasura' was enjoyable. Would it not be better if Sri Krishna's exploits as a child be serialised in Gokulam? Can Gokulam be made bi-monthly?

- V. Mahadevan, Chennai.

✉ Gokulam's May 2002 issue was simply super, especially the facts provided on the left side of every page! For the first ten minutes after I received the issue, I became mad and did not know what to read first! Please publish more issues of this kind!

-K.S. Badrinath, Hyderabad.

✉ The May 2002 issue gave us so many tips on how to spend our holidays - all very useful and enjoyable. The article 'The Land of River Brahmaputra' made us feel as if we were actually travelling through the picturesque and verdant N.E.States. While the article 'Look out for a library' helped us to realise the importance of reading, the article 'Story of the ice cream' made our mouth water!

- M. Mohamed Noorullah, Mayiladuthurai.

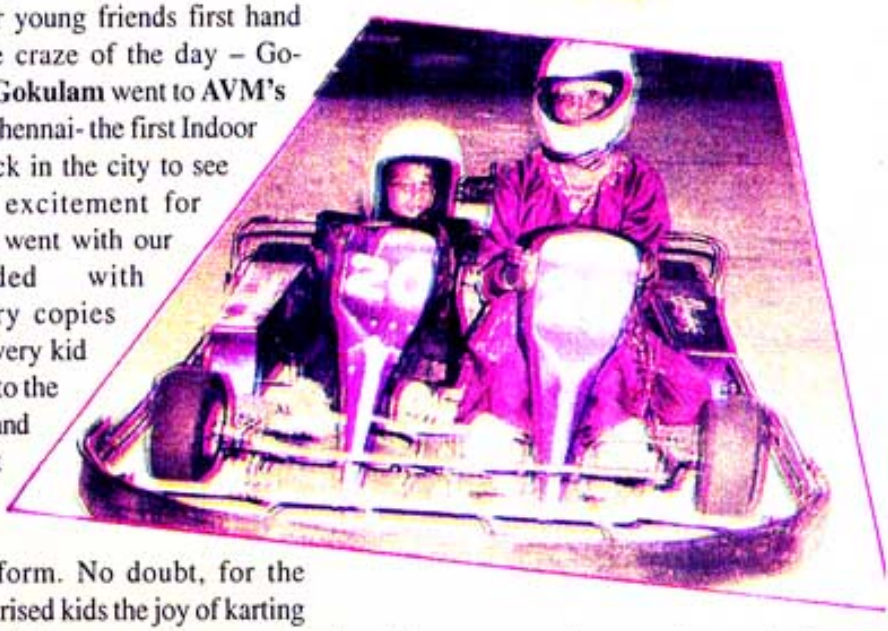
✉ Although I am in Std XII, I do not miss a single article in Gokulam. The article "All work and no play" was very interesting. I agree with the views of R. Ranjiv in that homework should be given only during weekends and projects must be limited.

- Prathmesh N. Shah, Pune.

GOKULAM GO(ES) KARTING

Its fun; Its challenging; Its a craze; Its a thrilling adventure on four wheels; It's also very expensive. Guessed already? Yes! It's Go-karting!!

To give our young friends first hand account of the craze of the day – Go-karting- we at **Gokulam** went to **AVM's Kart Beat** in Chennai- the first Indoor Go-karting track in the city to see and feel the excitement for ourselves. We went with our hands loaded with complimentary copies for each and every kid who walked into the arena on the 4th and 5th of May that included an on the spot quiz contest form. No doubt, for the pleasantly surprised kids the joy of karting multiplied manifold!



There were interesting scenes too, when the children attempted to answer the twelve simple questions under the watchful guidance of their parents/ grandparents. Sometimes the child was giving the right answer, but the parent was bent on 'correcting' it!! When one little fellow came to answering the question on Harry Potter's father's name, he shot back at his

Congratulations

The ten lucky winners of the on-the-spot contest are :

S. Sarasri, M. Ganesh Raj, M. Sunethra, S. Jaya, K. Jayasubha, Azman, P.Pratheepa, R. Vasanth, K. Sushil and S. Ganapathy. The prize winners will receive a free subscription for Gokulam for a period of six months.

Dear winners,

If you are already a subsciber to Gokulam do let us know. We will extend your existing period of subscription. Write to us quoting your subscription number.

- Editor

mother, "How many times I asked you to take me to the movie? See, I am unable to answer this question now"!!

We have to thank here, the management of AVM's Kart Beat, especially the managers **Mr.Ayyappan** and **Mr.Arjunan**, who readily gave us permission to hold such an event at Kart Beat.

Now to share the experience of Go-karting...

How It Began

It was first started in 1956 when Mr.Art Ingells, an American, built the first Go-kart for his son around a lawn-mover engine with a rope steering wheel. In India, Chrysalis built "Destination Point" in Faridabad, on the outskirts of Delhi, in October 1997. It was the first karting circuit in India, probably the first in the subcontinent itself. Most Formula 1 race drivers including super star Michael Schumacher and our own Narain Karthikeyan started their careers with karting, which is the first step to motorcar racing.

The Build

A typical kart has a brake, an accelerator and a steering wheel to manoeuvre. There is no gear and the uninitiated too can take on the kart. It has a low slung design like the formula 1 race cars, though much smaller and much less powerful. The double- reinforced steel frame around the kart ensures total safety for the driver. The manually operated cars are assembled locally with imported spares. The cars run on petrol and 4-stroke engines that generate power up to 5 bhp.

At the Kart Beat, the track is made of concrete and measures 200 mts, unlike the asphalt track in Bangalore with 400 mts. There are tracks in Mumbai measuring 1 ½ kms! The track is lined on either side with used tyres that act as a buffer in case the driver goes off course.

At Kart Beat, there are four different types of karts suitable for different age groups – between 5-7 years, 8-15 years, Adult single seater and Adult double seater.

Safety Measures:

Apart from tyres used as buffers along the track, safety measures include:-

* reinforced Guardrail on the outside of the track
* sunk seating in the karts to ensure that the driver is not thrown

• the managers at Kart Beat.

What brings them here again and again despite the rather expensive rate of Rs.100/- to Rs-150/- for just 5 minutes of racing down the tracks?

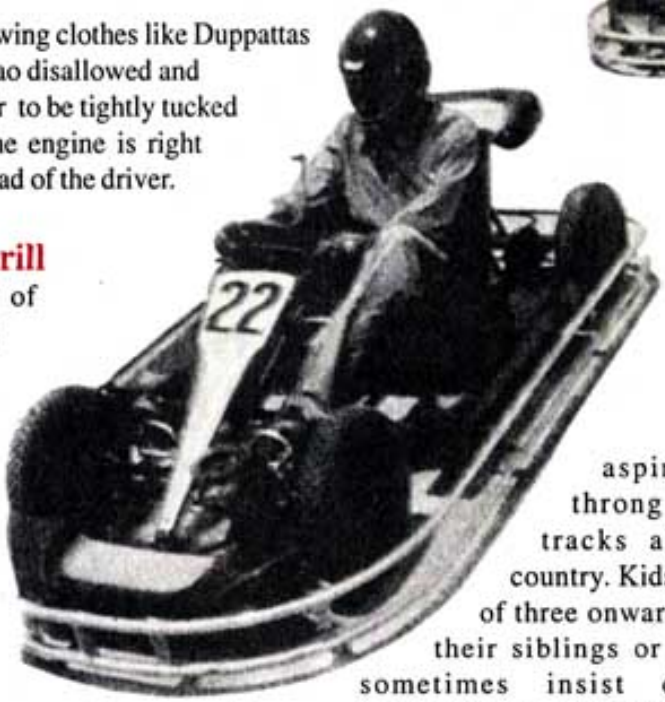
"My son really enjoys this. So I don't mind getting him here once in

out

* helmets and seat belts made mandatory

* long flowing clothes like Duppattas and saree palao disallowed and

* long hair to be tightly tucked in because the engine is right behind the head of the driver.



The Thrill

Because of the low seating position, even at conservative speeds of 40 km/hr, one feels the track literally rushing onto your face, only to be swallowed beneath the tyres and the surroundings go blurred in the speed, making the adrenaline rush. The excitement of overtaking adds to the sheer thrill and you realize why youngsters get hooked onto go-karting.

It is not just motorcar racing aspirants who throng the karting tracks all over the country. Kids from the age of three onwards come with their siblings or parents and sometimes insist on driving themselves!! For the teens, it is almost a craze, not to mention the adults- professionals and housewives, who have also been bitten by the karting bug.

- Radhika Sasankh

Photos: **Sri Hari**

2 to 3 months," says Arafat's mother.

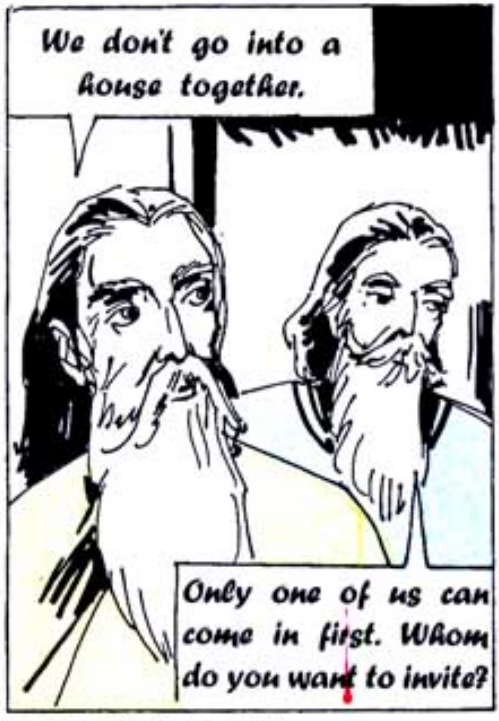
But there are some cool guys who come even twice or thrice a day continuously for 3-4 months trying to better their own "Best Lap Time," which is the time taken by a racer to complete each lap during the 5 minutes of his racing time. The names of the racers doing "Best Lap Times" on any given day and the record holders are displayed prominently on a notice board.

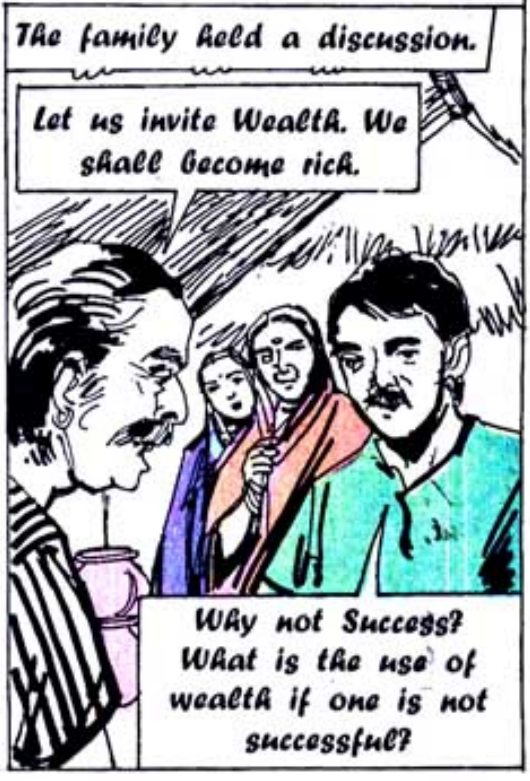
"This gives them encouragement and awareness," say Mr.Ayappan and Mr.Arjunan managing Kart Beat.

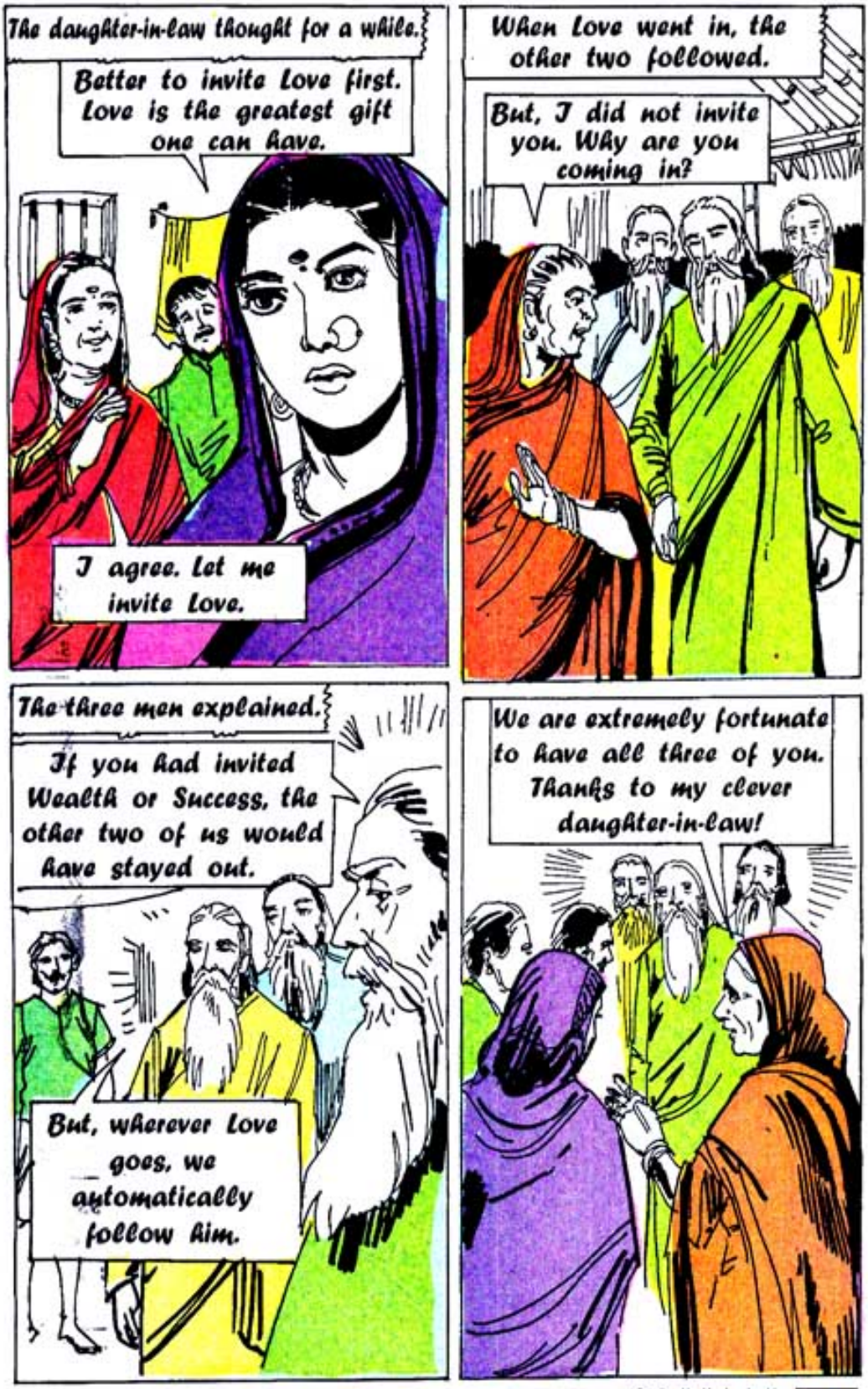
THE THREE GUESTS

Story : **B. Suryachakradhar**

Illustration : **Lalitha**






The daughter-in-law thought for a while.
Better to invite Love first. Love is the greatest gift one can have.
I agree. Let me invite Love.
When Love went in, the other two followed.
But, I did not invite you. Why are you coming in?
The three men explained.
If you had invited Wealth or Success, the other two of us would have stayed out.
But, wherever Love goes, we automatically follow him.
We are extremely fortunate to have all three of you. Thanks to my clever daughter-in-law!

THE BIG BEAUTIFUL VILLA

In a town named Bilaspur in Gwalior, lived a man by name Shivanand. His sons had settled in a foreign land. Shivanand lived in a big, beautiful villa but found it difficult to maintain it until one fine day, he decided to sell it.

Shivanand called his friend Madhav, who was a property dealer and expressed his wish.

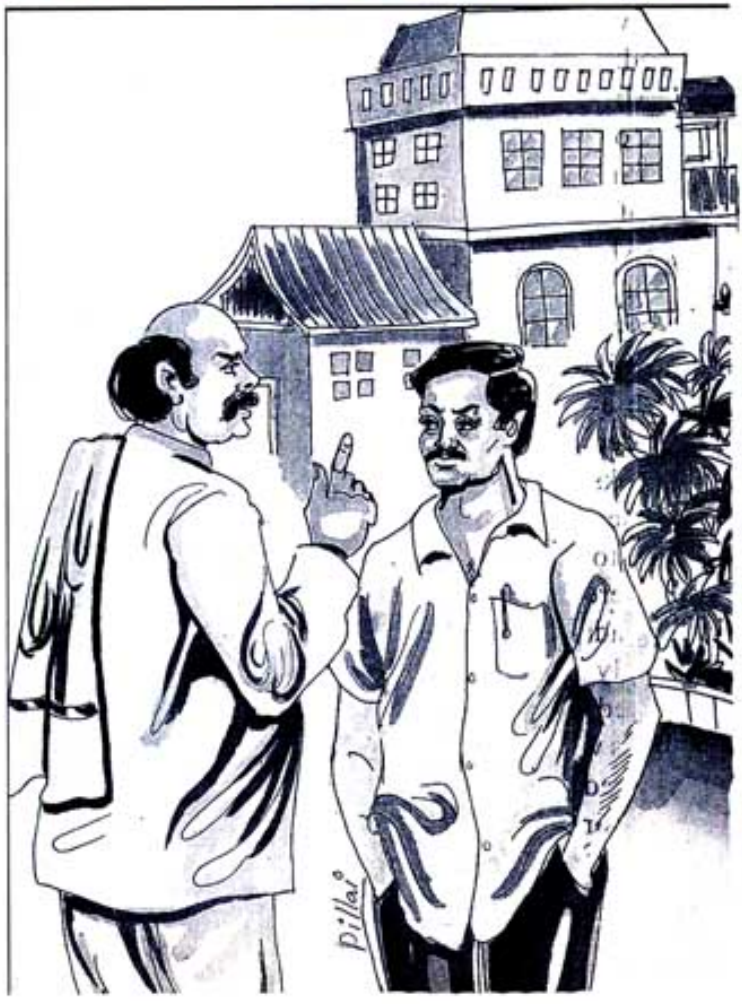
"But, sir! Tell me frankly the reasons for wanting to sell this beautiful villa" asked Madhav.

"I have become quite old and with my sons all being abroad I also find it difficult to maintain it single - handed. The house has also become quite old now. Look at the roof. It leaks with the coming of the first drizzle! The wooden doors and windows are falling apart..." explained Shivanand.

Madhav tried to convince Shivanand. "Listen to me sir! Once you sell this villa, you can't even dream of buying another one like this! Since I've known you from my childhood and I have regarded you as my uncle, I'm telling you all this. Please think about it sir. In my opinion, you must refrain from selling the house."

Shivanand had made up his mind! He refused to be convinced.

"All right sir! I leave it to you since you already seem to have made up your mind. But let me atleast give you a suggestion.



Kindly carry out the repairs and give the house a good coat of paint before you actually sell it. Only then it will fetch you a fabulous price," said Madhav.

Shivanand thought for a while and finally yielded. "Let me write to my sons for some money to carry out the work. But you must promise to take charge of the work. You're somebody I can trust."

On getting the green signal from Shivanand, Madhav began the work. The repairs soon went underway. Within a month, the house sparkled with two coats of fresh paint. The doors and windows stood strong and polished. The roof was fixed.

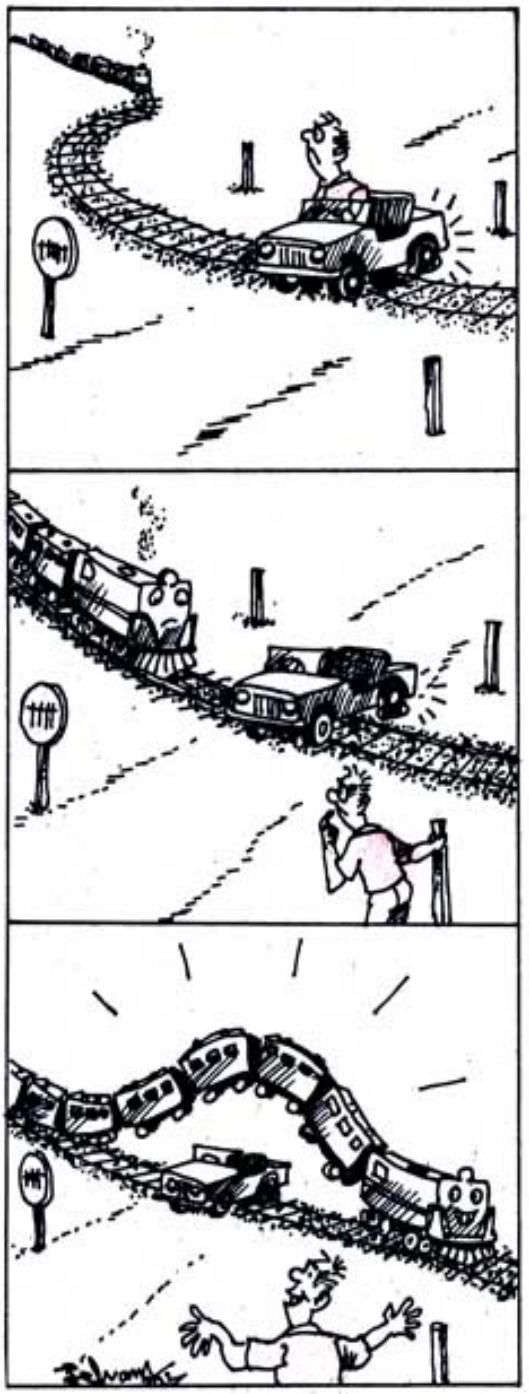
Madhav slowly broached the subject of finding a prospective buyer. "Sir, now your bungalow is worth a lot of money. It is sure to fetch you anywhere between fifteen to twenty lakhs. I can now find a buyer quite easily," he said.

Shivanand smiled. "Madhav, I have another problem now. I have decided not to sell this house after all. It looks so grand and beautiful after all the repairs, that I don't have the heart to sell it. I have decided to stay put here!"

Madhav grinned happily. "This is exactly what I wanted sir. I always wanted you to live here in this house. That's why I told you to get the house repaired and painted! Old is always gold, sir!"

- R. Chitra, New Delhi.

THE CROSS-OVER!



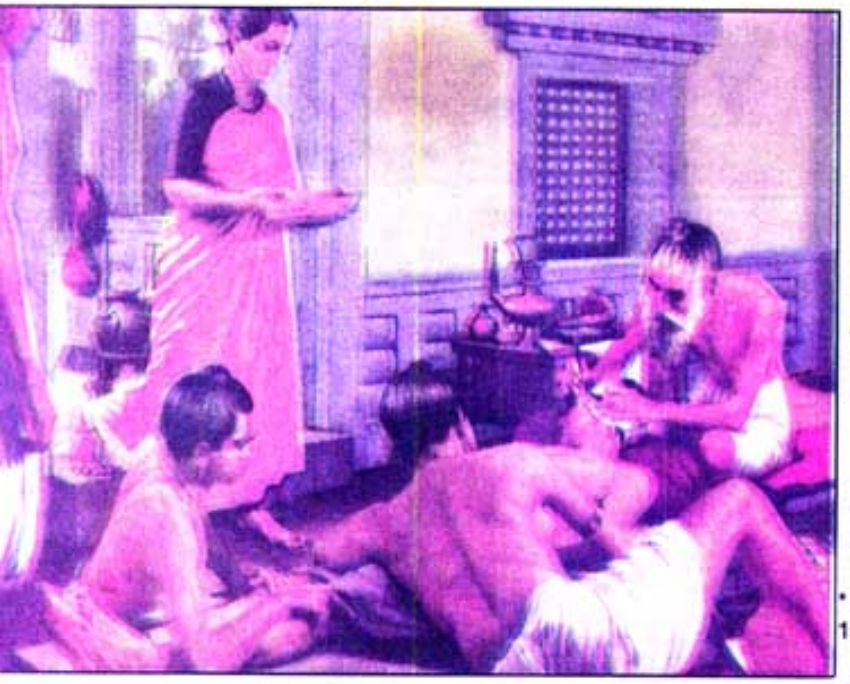
Today, when we go looking for soaps, shampoos, oils, creams and other cosmetics, we find amidst the usual range of branded products, a mind - boggling variety of 'herbal' and 'ayurvedic' products. So also are a number of pharmaceutical formulations based on herbs.

Ayurveda has thus reached the masses. Although there was a period when it was pushed to the backseat, people are once again becoming aware of it today. When and where did this form of medicine begin? What is the speciality of the method?

Gokulam approached Dr. A. Radhakrishna doctor-in-charge of the age-old (98 years) Venkataramana Dispensary located in Chennai. A graduate in B.Sc., Zoology, the doctor developed an interest in this branch of medicine and graduated in 1987. He has been the doctor-in-charge of the Venkataramana dispensary since 1996. Let us listen to what Dr. Radhakrishna has to say.

• Dr. Radha Krishna

"The word 'Ayurveda' finds its root in Sanskrit - 'Ayu' meaning life and 'Veda' meaning knowledge. Ayurveda thus refers to that branch



* as early as in the 1st century AD.

INSIGHT - AYURVEDA

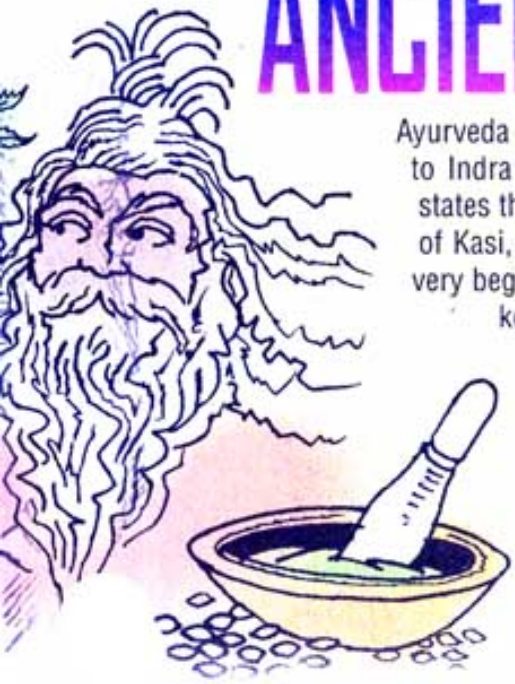
RESURGENCE OF ANCIENT MEDICINE

of scientific medicine that aids living - the harmonious working of the body, mind and the soul.

Dating back to over 5000 long years, Ayurveda is an integral part of Hindu Mythology. Lord Dhanvantri is regarded as the Hindu God of Medicine. He is the original exponent of Indian Medicine which today encompasses three basic forms - Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha.

Lord Dhanvantri, the story goes, emerged with the pot of ambrosia (symbolic of medicine) in his hand from the ocean when it was churned by the contesting 'devas' and 'asuras'. Dhanvantri is regarded as the incarnation of Lord Vishnu, the protector of the universe. It was Dhanvantri who healed the scars that had appeared on the bodies of the devas due to the churning.

Atharva Veda, the last of the four vedas in Hindu mythology, deals with the body and its healing methods. Ayurveda is part of this Atharva Veda. Lord Brahma, the creator, also well versed in Ayurveda passed on his knowledge of this medicine to Indra the king of the 'devas'. The story further states that the science was taught finally to the king of Kasi, Divodasa. Thus Ayurveda originated in the very beginning of the cosmic creation. The desire to keep fit, healthy and live long is the basic instinct of all living organisms and Ayurveda helps to fulfill this desire present in human beings.

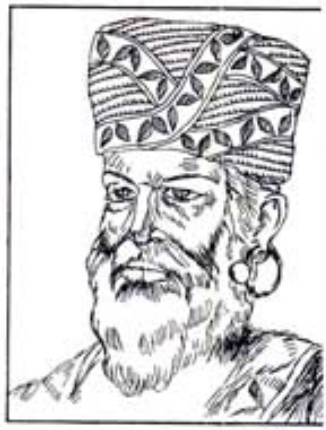


Ayurveda treats man as a 'whole', while also looking into the individual

aspects of body, mind and soul. Therefore it is a truly holistic, scientific and integral system of medicine. It also takes into consideration the 'way of life' - how to live.

It is one of the greatest gifts of the sages of ancient India to mankind. These sages believed that man is very closely associated to the nature around him and hence Ayurveda states that when man's relationship with nature is affected, then his body and mind are affected. Although very ancient, Ayurveda is a scientific system with a long record of clinical experience to validate it.

Charaka Samhita and Sushruta Samhitha are the two main sources of Ayurvedic medicine. These books are a collection of notes on medicine and surgery, which were written in Sanskrit thousands of years ago. While the former deals with general medicine, the latter talks more about surgery. Both Charaka and Sushruta were the pioneers in the field of Indian medicine. Charaka had done a lot of research in the field of healing and medicine, while giving importance to medicines made from herbs. The 'Charaka Samhita' has eight sections divided into 150 chapters and lists over 600 drugs that come from plants and minerals. It also gives systematic guidelines for those in the medical profession.



* Charaka

Sushruta is the 'father of surgery' in India. Even as early as in the first century A.D., he conducted surgical operations and also recorded them. The book describes five types of bones, eight kinds of operations, fourteen types of bandages and 121 surgical instruments!

* Sushruta

Let us consider a person suffering from head ache. Ayurveda does not immediately prescribe a medicine to treat it. The headache is only symptomatic of the real problem. Hence, the cause for the headache is identified - it may be sleepless nights, tension, related to sight, general indigestion, constipation and so on. The treatment is given for the root cause. Once the cause is tackled the outcome from the cause gets automatically corrected.

It is a fact that Ayurveda needs a prolonged treatment in many cases (for example, those relating to joint problems.) However there are certain cases for which the treatment produces immediate effects (fever, diarrohea). The period of treatment, in case of prolonged treatment, will vary from 3 weeks to 3 months or more depending on the nature of the problem and the patient.

Ayurveda is not a 100% 'nature cure'. Herbs and minerals (both of these are found in nature and so we can indirectly refer to Ayurveda as nature cure) are the basic components of any form of ayurvedic

medicine.

Any medicine is made according to a formula. In Ayurveda, Churnam (powder), Leghyam (paste), Basma, Thailam (oils) are some of the forms from which the formulae are derived.

Triple churnam is made out of three different herbs that are identified, cleaned, dried and made into powder. The Leghyam is a combination of powdered herb, sugar and ghee made into a paste on heating.

The actual prescription may involve one or a combination of these forms depending on the ailment.

There is no possibility of any side effects if the dosage is correct. Unlike in other forms of medicine, chances of any allergic reaction is almost nil.

* the Hindu God of Medicine

There are certain diet restrictions that go along with a prescription. However, the restrictions relate to the ailment rather than the medicine itself. For example for an asthma patient, we would advice that cold items and spicy food be avoided because these aggravate the problem further.

Since ailments like heart attack, accidents etc. require an emergency treatment, it is not possible to advocate Ayurveda then. The access to oxygen cylinders and blood transfusion gadgets becomes necessary. However, once the emergency period is over Ayurvedic treatment can take over.

While there is no age restriction for prescribing ayurvedic treatment, in the case of very small children one needs to be careful. It is absolutely essential to consult the doctor and administer the prescribed dosage carefully. Preparations like Chyavanprash also help to build general resistance and can be administered as a general tonic.

Ayurveda is universal and is gaining popularity, globally. In certain cases ayurveda can also be administered along with an allopathic treatment. It has also been proved that an ayurveda - yoga combination is extremely effective in many cases.

Most Ayurvedic doctors practice as physicians only. However doctors who practice Indian Medicine have been given a formula to perform minor surgeries on wounds and abscesses using the appropriate tools.

The minimum qualification to appear for the entrance exam of the Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) is class XII. The entrance exam is the same as that of the MBBS course. The period of study is 4 ½ years and then one year of House Surgeon.

Knowledge of Sanskrit is a definite advantage. More and more students who appear for the Medical Entrance exam, opt for Ayurveda these days.

Dear Reader...

CHILD SOLDIERS
A SHAME ON SOCIETY

Dickens wrote about boys who were trained to beg and steal. We have come a long way from those days. Much worse things are done to children today. Young boys and girls who should be studying in schools are dragged into forced labour. Ofcourse the dignity of labour is important and should be taught in schools through vocational training. But forcing them to work for a pittance and not providing them with basic education is terrible - a blot on the people who rule the country. Besides the indignity suffered by children, the repercussions of child labour will surely affect the society in many ways.

Children are also used by unscrupulous elements, to smuggle goods by air and by sea. Drug traffic is their main aim. Sexual abuse of children by perverted minds is also on the increase.

The worst form of child exploitation is using them as soldiers! Adults quarrel among themselves and when they are short of commandos they start recruiting children. This monstrous practice goes on in many countries all over the world. Newsweek magazine lists 36 countries of which Sierra Leone (Africa) tops the list as the worst example. Afganistan, Burma, Indonesia, Srilanka and India too find a place as some of the Asian countries in which child soldiers can be easily found. Armed opposition groups or rebels use them in their struggle against other groups or the government. It is not uncommon to find child commandos in the North Eastern States, Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh.

Children are at an impressionable age and it is easy to inculcate certain ideas into their heads. They think they are fighting for a very noble cause, whereas in reality they are just being exploited by the adults for their own selfish ends. If the children show some resistance they are threatened and their parents are blackmailed. Worst of all, the child soldier is given drugs which makes him stupid and addicted. Very soon he becomes cruel.

Let us not be blind to such atrocities committed on children. Let us understand and resolve that no one has any right to exploit any child in any manner.

- Editor

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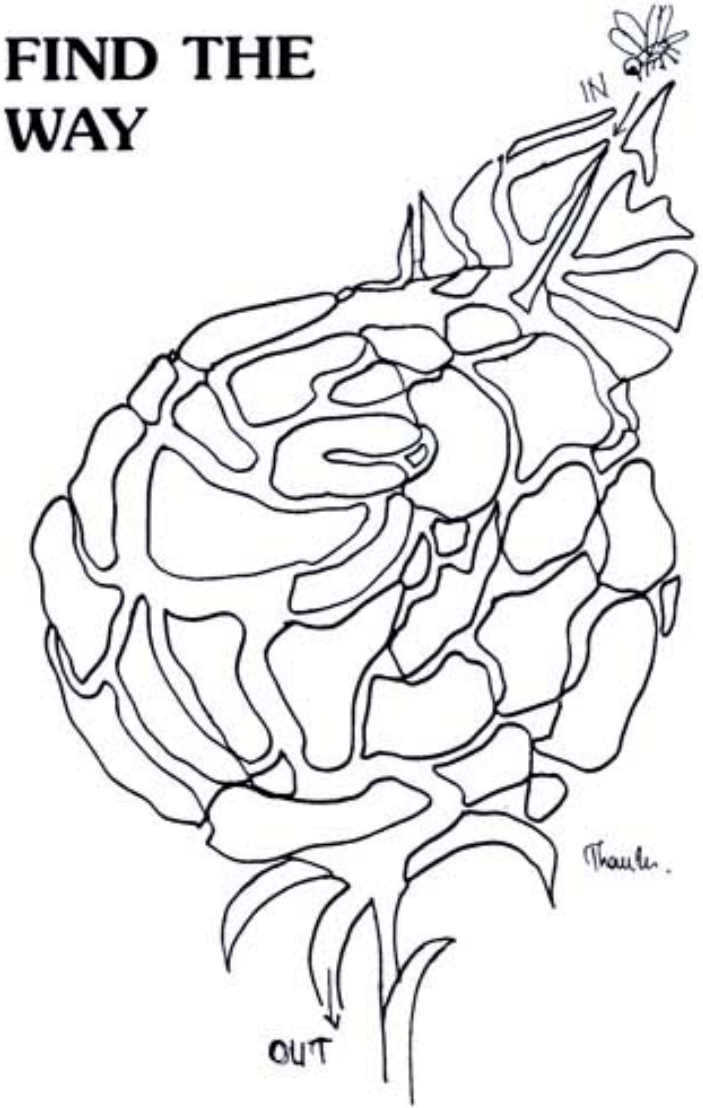
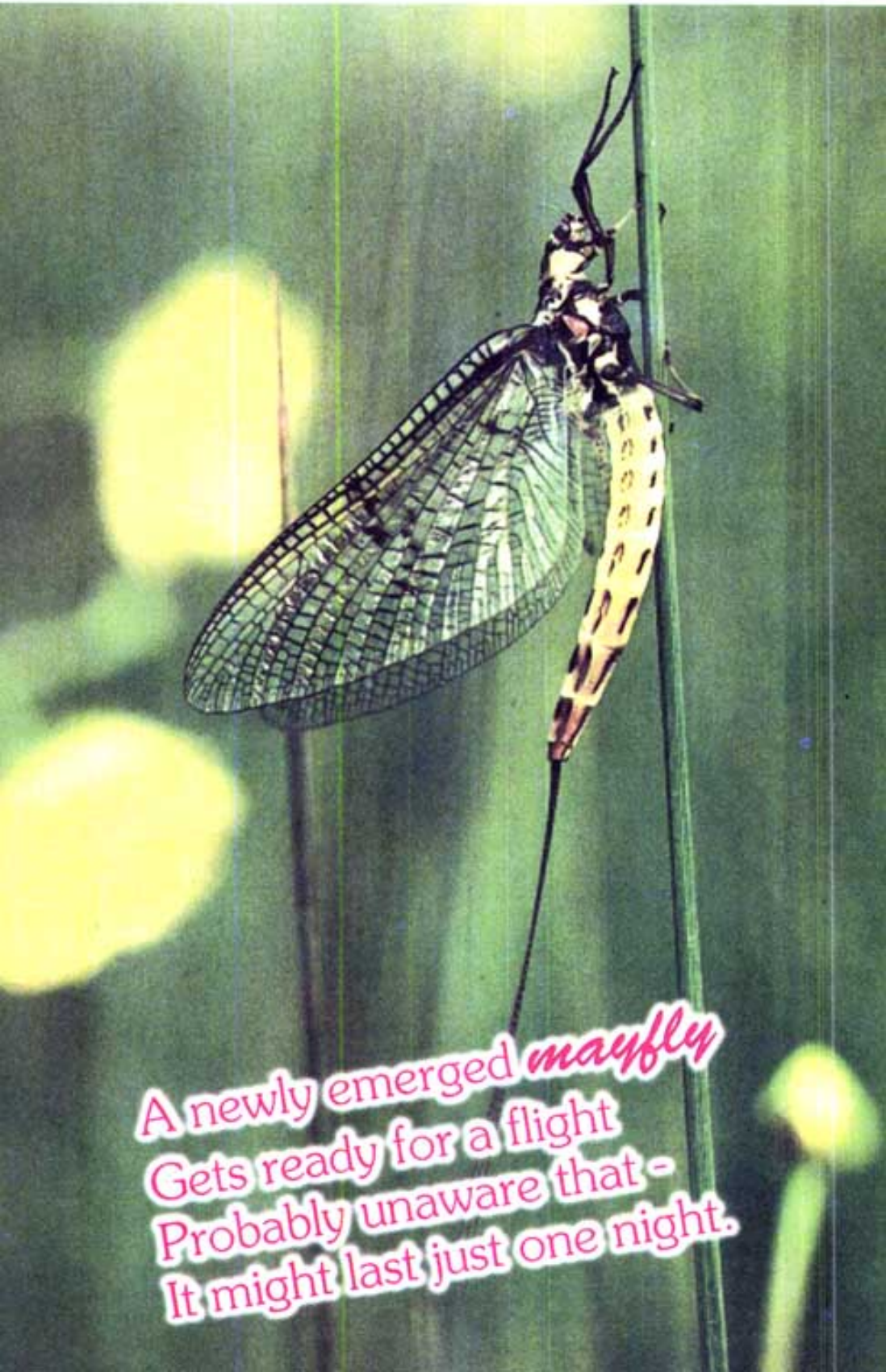
COLOUR AND KEEP

- S.Srikanth,
Hyderabad.

FIND THE WAY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